

Hartford



Courant

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

# Hospitalizations pass 1K

## Lamont says free tests are delayed

Connecticut's much anticipated shipment of at-home rapid tests has been delayed due to shipping and warehouse problems, Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday. **NEWS, PAGE 3**

## Most patients in hospital at a time since Jan. 20; Yale New Haven pauses visitations amid surge

By Alex Puttermann  
Hartford Courant

More than 1,000 patients are now hospitalized with COVID-19 in Connecticut, reflecting a dramatic increase over recent days

as the virus surges across the state. As of Wednesday, Connecticut has 1,113 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 150 from Monday and the most at a time since Jan. 20, near the peak of last winter's surge. Hospitalizations have now nearly

sextupled since the end of October. Late Wednesday afternoon, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that an expected delivery of three million COVID-19 at-home rapid tests and six million N95 masks will be delayed. The Connecticut National Guard is on standby at Bradley International Airport to unload the shipment when it arrives, said Max Reiss, a spokesman for Lamont.

"We are utilizing every single tool at our disposal across all of our agencies to get these tests in the state and distributed as fast as we possibly can," Reiss said. Planned distribution of the test kits in municipalities across the state will likely be delayed until late Thursday or Friday.

Turn to Virus, Page 3

## Demand for non-appointment tests grows higher, and sites struggle to keep up



Cars stretched back onto Route 71 at New Britain Stadium, where more than 140 cars were lined up by 8:30 a.m. Wednesday for COVID-19 testing. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

# Tests are vital, but hard to find

Here's what to know as critical tool turns increasingly scarce

By Alex Puttermann  
Hartford Courant

With drive-through sites overrun and at-home tests often sold out, Connecticut residents are having a harder time than ever getting screened for COVID-19. This has created frustration, confusion and plenty of questions. Here is what to know about who should be tested for COVID-19, where to find tests and more.

**Who should seek a COVID-19 test?**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recommends testing for these groups:

- People with symptoms of COVID-19
- People who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (with an exception for those who previously had the disease within the past three months and do not have new symptoms)
- People who have been asked or required to get tested for work, school, travel or another similar reason

With testing hard to come by in recent days, some Connecticut residents have reported forgoing the tests altogether and simply assuming they have COVID-19. Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, says that

Turn to Tests, Page 3

# Long lines, long waits

By Don Stacom  
Hartford Courant

Along the 140-car line that crept slowly through New Britain Stadium's parking lot Wednesday morning, there were plenty of reasons why people were willing to wait hours to get a COVID-19 test. Jacob James, an off-duty nurse, was driving his wife and niece, who had been exposed at Christmas. They showed up at 6:50 a.m. — more than an hour before the official opening — but by 8:30 were still at least 30 cars from the front.

"I work in health care, so I anticipated a long line — but if it's like this here, imagine New York or California."

*"I work in health care, so I anticipated a long line — but if it's like this here, imagine New York or California."*

Jacob James

or California," James said. James had gotten his own test at the VA in Rocky Hill earlier in the week, where it went far smoother. "It took less than 10 minutes there," James said. "But you've got to do what you've got to do."

Well past the 100-car mark in the line, Kyler Florer, Greg Ferni, Frank Romeo and Ethan Jowdy waited in an SUV, knowing it would be another two hours at least.

"It's not ideal, but we don't have anything else we have to do," Florer said. The friends — all 20 and from Rocky Hill — got to a testing site at a

Turn to Lines, Page 3

# Hartford has deadliest year since '03

By Christine Dempsey  
Hartford Courant

With 35 homicides as of late December, this year has been an exceptionally deadly one for Hartford. Homicides increased 40% from 2020, when the year ended with 25. While other crimes have declined, the capital city had more killings than in any year



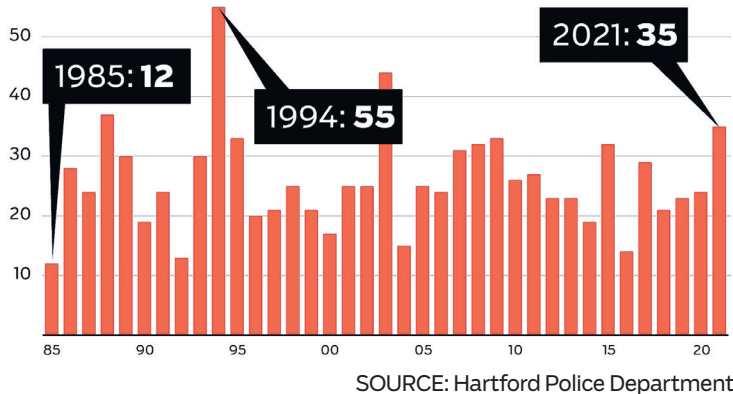
since 2003, when 16 people died in a nursing home arson. Four of this year's homicide victims were children — one only 3 years old. While cities across the state and nation also are seeing more bloodshed, Hartford's homicide rate exceeds that of the biggest city in the state, Bridgeport, which had 21 homicides as of Dec. 17, and New Haven, which had 25 homicide victims as of Dec. 19.

"This was our most difficult and heartbreaking year in recent memory when it comes to homicides, and the fact that our experience was shared by cities across the country is little comfort," Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said. "The effects of violence like this are devastating to families, to neighborhoods, and to our whole community, and my heart is with everyone who has lost a loved one

Turn to Homicides, Page 2

## Hartford homicides

Annual Hartford homicides from 1985 through 2021. 2021 numbers through Dec. 29.



## Some Connecticut families to get tax credit boost

Nearly 200,000 low-to-moderate income families who benefit from the earned income tax credit will soon receive an extra refund, Gov. Ned Lamont announced Wednesday. **PAGE 6**

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Homicides

from Page 1

or a friend, or simply been exposed to this trauma,” Bronin said.

The Hartford Courant selected Hartford homicides as one of the top 10 stories for 2021.

Courant editors selected the top stories of the year based on reader interest and significance.

**Baby ‘Jun Jun’ fatally shot while sitting in car:** Most jarring were the deaths of four children — three teenagers and a 3-year-old who was sitting in a parked car.

The death of Randell Tarez “Jun Jun” Jones sent shockwaves through the state. Like many 3-year-olds, he was an active little boy who was “always ready to go,” said his mother, Solmary Cruz.

Even if you’re a stranger, “he’s running up to you, giving a hug,” Cruz said recently.

“Jun Jun” was killed in a drive-by shooting April 10 while sitting with his two sisters, ages 4 and 5, in a parked car at Nelson and Garden streets in the city’s North End. Police said the shooter was aiming for the man in the front passenger seat.

Two hours after the deadly shooting, another young person died. Ja’Mari Preston, 16, was gunned down behind a home on Magnolia Street less than a mile away. Police at Garden and Nelson could hear the gunfire, which littered the ground with 75 shell casings from different guns. Police acknowledged the shootings were likely connected, although they haven’t confirmed that the second was in retaliation for the first.

Jaziah Smith, 19, and Tyquam Malone, 16, were arrested in April and charged with murder.

Asked how her young daughters are coping, Cruz said, “They’re doing alright. They’re holding up.”

“It’s been a rough patch,”



Solmary Cruz, left, mourns the death of her son, 3-year-old Randell Jones, with family friend Jenzalee Quiroz, 17, at a candlelight vigil on April 12 in Hartford. **COURANT FILE**

she said. “But every day it gets better.”

**Deadly shooting of Sylvia Cordova in her kitchen:** A 56-year-old grandmother also was taken by gunfire in 2021.

Sylvia “Pebbles” Cordova was cooking dinner in her first-floor Sisson Avenue apartment June 9 when someone on a motorized scooter fired an assault weapon from the street, allegedly aiming for people who had robbed him of his Yamaha dirt bike at gunpoint, police said. Bullets pierced the walls of Cordova’s home. One struck her in the head, killing her. It was one of two deadly shootings that day.

Cordova r was known for serving visitors her Puerto Rican cooking.

“She took care of people,” a former neighbor said. “She was just a wonderful person all the way around.”

Omar Reyes, 21, was arrested in June in Puerto Rico and charged with murder in Cordova’s death. He was extradited to Hartford in July and arraigned on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and possession of an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine.

**Peacebuilder Brian Oliver gunned down:** Cordova and Randell were well outside the age range of the typical city homicide victim in

courtroom in October in front of a dozen members of Oliver’s family.

**Makhi Buckley, grandson of violence prevention advocate, fatally shot:** Another death that shocked the community was that of Makhi Buckley. Buckley was a freshman at American International College in Springfield, where he played football. He was the only grandson of Carl Hardrick, a lifelong street violence prevention worker at Hartford’s Wilson-Gray YMCA known as “Brother Carl.”

The 19-year-old was fatally shot in broad daylight on Memorial Day in the city’s Southwest neighborhood.

The next day, his grandfather told the Courant his grandson was a competitive athlete who loved his family. Hardrick helped raise Buckley and got the teen involved in YMCA Camp Woodstock in northeastern Connecticut.

Buckly also was known to Hartford Communities That Care, an organization that works to create drug and violence-free environments for young people, families and responds to crises like the shooting that took his life. Andrew Woods, HCTC’s executive director, said Buckley did a presentation on changing violent behaviors in an HCTC summer leadership program, where he was highly respected.

Jaquan Graham, 19, is accused of killing Buckley in an apparent gun trade gone wrong over the backyard fence of Graham’s Southwest neighborhood home, where he was under house arrest for a separate case at the time of the shooting.

**Homicide rate ‘frustrating’:** Hartford Chief of Police Jason Thody said the surge in homicides has been frustrating.

“This has been a challenging and frustrating year for us when it comes to the number of homicides. While we recognize that this is a broader trend,

we have worked tirelessly, both internally and with our community, judicial and law enforcement partners, to both prevent violent crimes from happening and to hold those that have committed them accountable,” he said.

Police made arrests in most of the highlighted homicide cases. As of Dec. 17, they solved 61.76% of the 34 they investigated. City police don’t count the Jan. 6 deadly shooting of a man in Hartford by members of a federal task force, which was determined to be justified, as a homicide because they weren’t the investigators. The clearance rate is slightly higher than the national average for 2019, the latest year available.

Thody said the department’s homicide clearance rate last year was even better, 76% of the 25 cases.

Police took a stunningly large number of guns off the streets in 2021 — 543 — 213 of which were collected at gun buyback events. The other 330 were seized or recovered, a 31% increase over the number of guns seized last year, Thody said.

The chief also listed other steps police took to counter the increase in homicides, particularly those by gunfire. He said police in March started a Shooting Response Team to investigate nonfatal shootings and recently added two detectives to the team. In addition, the department added two detectives to the Crime Scene Division and began a program with the state forensic lab that speeds up DNA analysis, giving a preliminary result in two hours.

Thody said there seems to be different reasons for the increase in deadly violence, which makes the problem harder to attack.

“One thing that has made the increase more difficult to manage is that we have not found any one single driver of this violence, but rather a multitude of causes including narcotics, auto theft, group affiliation and, most notably, the rapid escalation of very personal disputes,” the chief said.

“As such, our team has reacted to this increase with a very diverse approach, including bolstering our narcotics and illegal fire-arm enforcement, creating a regional auto-theft task force, and creating new units like the Crime Reduction Teams and the Nonfatal Shooting Response Team,” Thody said. “While we have seen some significant improvements in crime categories like aggravated assault, robbery and nonfatal shootings that are generally indicative of homicide trends, we will continue to work with our partners to find ways to reduce violent crime in our community.”

The mayor said the police alone can’t prevent homicides. The courts and community have to be on board.

“I’m deeply grateful for the tremendous work our police department has done, not only in solving homicide cases to help bring both closure and justice, but in dramatically increasing the number of arrests in nonfatal shootings and taking a tremendous number of illegal guns off the street,” Bronin said. “I do believe that the court system and the probation system need to do more to hold perpetrators of gun violence accountable, particularly when it comes to repeat gun offenders who our police have arrested again and again.

“Needless to say, the scourge of gun violence can’t be solved by law enforcement alone, and we’ve worked hard to expand partnerships with community organizations and others doing the hugely important work of violence intervention, de-escalation, mental health support, trauma treatment, and support to justice-involved youth and adults,” he said. “We’ve committed unprecedented resources to that mission, and I’m grateful to all who do that work.”

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LOTTERY

Wednesday, Dec. 29

PLAY3 DAY

9 2 3 WB: 7

PLAY4 DAY

2 8 1 2 WB: 3

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit [courant.com/lottery](http://courant.com/lottery).

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

4 2 1 WB: 0

PLAY4 NIGHT

6 9 8 0 WB: 0

CASH 5

23 26 29 33 34

LUCKY FOR LIFE

4 6 14 33 41 LB: 9

LOTTO

4 18 29 33 38 41

MEGA MILLIONS

3 5 8 31 38 MB: 4 MP: 3



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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Distribution of free virus tests delayed

By Seamus McAvoy  
Hartford Courant

Connecticut’s much anticipated shipment of at-home rapid COVID-19 tests has been delayed due to shipping and warehouse problems, Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday evening.

Lamont has ordered the Connecticut National Guard to be on standby overnight at Bradley International Airport to unload the shipment of millions of at-home tests arriving from California.

“We are utilizing every single tool at our disposal across all of our agencies to get these tests in the state and distributed as fast as we possibly can,” said Max Reiss, spokesman for Gov. Lamont.

Lamont said the delay is “is clearly a shipping and distribution bottleneck on the West Coast amid unprecedented international demand for tests.”

The bottleneck potentially jeopardizes the distribution plans scheduled by municipalities across the state, which had rushed in recent days to organize delivery methods and hire volunteers. It was not immediately clear when it would be resolved.

In a phone call briefing with municipal officials, state officials expressed hope but did not have a guarantee that the tests will arrive overnight, according to a municipal official who was on the call.

Municipal officials were told that the tests are on an airplane labeled for Connecticut, but the plane was not in the air as of Wednesday evening, according to East Hartford Mayor Mike Walsh, who was also on the call.

“I want to thank our municipal and emergency management partners who have quickly and efficiently established their methods of distribution of the tests, clearly communicating them to their communities,” Lamont said.

“My administration is in regular communication with city and town leaders, and we will provide updates as we have them in order to distribute the tests as quickly as possible,” Lamont added.

Connecticut has bought three million COVID-19 at-home rapid tests and six million N95 masks. The first

wave — with one million tests — had been expected to arrive Wednesday night.

Hartford, which was set to receive over 15,000 tests from the state, announced Wednesday it had recently received its own shipment of about 8,000 test kits purchased on its own. Distribution will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday at seven locations across the city.

Some distribution plans on Thursday have been delayed, perhaps until Friday.

Bristol was one of the first communities to announce it would push back its drive-through distribution operation, which was planned for Thursday evening.

“We just found out the kits are still in California,” Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano said Wednesday evening. “The state asked us to get these out to people by the weekend, but they never had a guarantee they’d be here by now.”

East Hartford is putting their testing operation on hold, but are not canceling them in the event the shipment arrives overnight. Distribution was scheduled to begin at noon on Thursday. The same holds for Tolland, where officials urged residents to stay home until the shipment’s delivery can be confirmed.

Matt Hart, West Hartford town manager, said town officials will issue an update around 10 a.m. Thursday regarding their distribution, which are supposed to begin Friday.

Walsh, East Hartford mayor, said he had great faith in the ability of the state’s National Guard members to efficiently unload the shipment when it arrives, but wasn’t optimistic the kits will arrive by Thursday morning.

“If we don’t have a definitive location [of the kits], I find it hard to believe we’re going to be able to tell folks with any certainty that they’re going to be on the ground by, you know, eight o’clock in the morning and available for distribution,” Walsh said.

“Overall I’m disappointed, but we’re doing the best we can with the information we have,” he added, “and I think the vast majority of the community understands that.”

Courant staff writer Don Stacom contributed.



People wait for a test at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks Wednesday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Virus

from Page 1

As COVID-19 hospitalizations have climbed, health care workers say they have increasingly struggled to care for patients.

“We have people spending extended periods of time in emergency rooms because there aren’t beds,” said Dr. Mark Siegel, a pulmonary and critical care physician at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Yale New Haven Health announced Wednesday it would pause all visitation to its facilities, with exceptions for people who require support under Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and for people who are imminently dying.

Connecticut’s recent increase in hospitalizations comes at a time when the state continues to experience record numbers of new cases. On Wednesday, the state reported 7,520 new cases, a new single-day record, with a test positivity rate of nearly 18%.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, said the recent spike owes to a combination of the omicron variant and human behaviors.

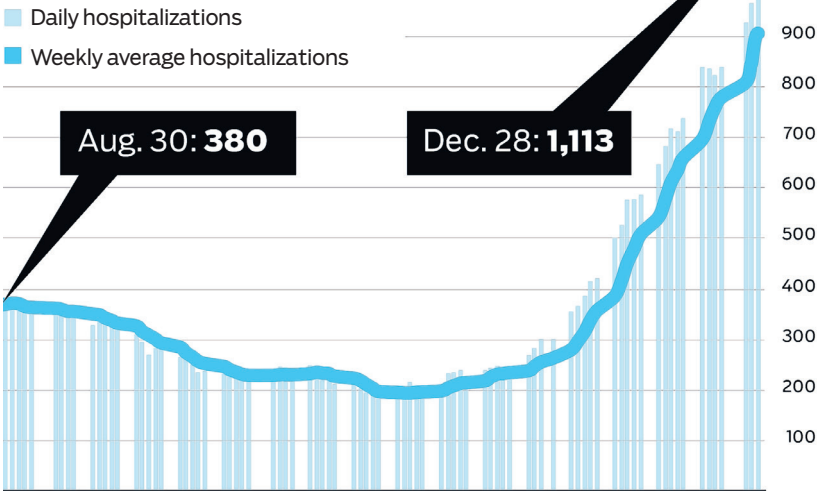
“People have thrown caution to the wind. I don’t think COVID is on their consciousness anymore,” Wu said. “Omicron is contributing to it, but if everybody was masking and everybody was social distancing and everyone was boosted and vaccinated, we would have no transmissions, but everyone’s not doing that.”

According to the state, 73.9% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

**Cases and positivity rate:** Connecticut reported 7,520 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday out of 42,295 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 17.78%,

Daily coronavirus hospitalizations

Hospitalizations from June 1, 2021 to December 28, 2021.



SOURCE: CT Department of Public Health

surpassing Tuesday as the highest single-day rate since widespread testing began. The state’s seven-day positivity rate now stands at 12.27%, easily the highest of any time in the past 18 months.

The 7,520 cases Connecticut reported Wednesday are the most on a single of any time during the pandemic. The state has now averaged 4,478 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, up about 13-fold since the first week of November.

Unvaccinated residents have been about four times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are currently recording “high” levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

**Deaths:** Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last

week, the state recorded 75 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,077.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 821,722 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

**Vaccinations:** As of Wednesday, 88.3% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 74.5% of all residents and 83.6% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 40.7% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Lines

from Page 1

West Hartford urgent care at 7:15 a.m., but said people in the line were sent away at 7:30. Some of them have elderly relatives visiting for the weekend, so getting tests was their morning goal.

About 20 cars behind them, Jayda Johnson of New Britain showed pictures of crowds from outside a couple of local pharmacies that she’d tried first. Both places are offering no-appointment tests, and by 8 a.m. there were long lines of people standing outside in the cold.

“I’d rather be in the car where it’s warm,” Johnson said. “The supervisor at my job said I can’t go back until I get tested. I went Christmas shopping with my cousin and she ended up getting it.”

New Britain Stadium and the former Bristol Centre Mall site across from Bristol City Hall are both operating as no-appointment, drive-through test sites run by Genesys Diagnostics under a state contract. In both locations, lines have grown from long to extraordinarily long in the past week or two, creating traffic concerns as cars back up onto city streets.

“Genesys only provides staff for testing, they don’t have crowd control or any of that. Last week it started to get out of control, we needed to start sending the PD there to do traffic and help with the end of the line,” New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart said.

A Genesys staffer at New Britain on Wednesday morning said the company is adding guards at the New Britain and Bristol locations, which each have been operating only three or four days a week. The posted hours are 8

a.m. to 4 p.m., but periodically a staffer cuts off the line when it gets so long that they might not be able to handle everyone left, she said.

“We can open up again after that if we’re caught up,” she said.

On Wednesday, a staffer put up red traffic cones to end the line around 9 a.m., but some drivers went around them. About an hour later, a Genesys worker drove about three-quarters of the way down the line, put out more cones and told everyone behind them — dozens of drivers, some who’d been waiting more than an hour — to leave.

The New Britain location is doing about 500 tests a day; a nurse uses a nasal swab while the patient waits in the vehicle. The company asks for insurance information, but the Genesys worker said it isn’t processed. The tests are paid for by the state, and uninsured people aren’t turned away.

Waterbury, New Haven and Hartford testing sites have experienced a similar crush of business as COVID-19 has flared up in Connecticut during the holiday season.

At the Beacon Prescriptions store downtown, a crowd of 50 stretched along the Main Street sidewalk to the American Savings building Wednesday morning. They stood in 37-degree weather, and one grandmother who took her 5-year-old grandson for a short walk to break up the wait said she’s concerned about later in the winter.

“What do we do then? It’s going to be cold,” she said.

A Beacon staffer emerged from the pharmacy around 10 a.m. to announce the line would be divided into two, with some patients using a

different entrance. But even afterward there were still about 30 people along Main Street.

Two days after waiting for more than two hours at the New Britain Stadium site, David Steinberg of West Hartford got the news he was hoping for.

“We got two of four results by this morning — negative. Phew,” Steinberg said.

Two other test results could arrive on Thursday; Genesys has said wait times are up to 72 hours because of the enormous demand.

On Monday morning, Steinberg and his wife packed games and snacks for their 1-year-old and 4-year-old and headed to New Britain Stadium. They arrived at 7:45 a.m. and took another 2¼ hours to finish.

“This week, seems like if you don’t get there before 8, you will wait 3-plus hours,” he wrote on the Neighbors and Friends in West Hartford page on Facebook. “When we left there were about 130 people in line at 10 a.m.”

Steinberg, whose family had hosted a dinner where a guest’s 3-year-old later tested positive, had plenty of praise for the other patients as well as the staff.

“It seemed everyone kept their cool. I think people knew the situation: we have a rapidly spreading new variant and everyone was meeting up for the holidays,” he said.

“It makes me want to volunteer. Staff at testing sites might be run-down at this point and they might need some fresh volunteers,” he said. “The staff was amazing. They were efficient but with great bedside manner. From what I could see, three staff in total. Working as a team, the best they could.”

Tests

from Page 1

approach can work only if people are diligent about staying apart from others.

“We don’t need the tests if everybody follows [safety protocols] to the letter of the law, but nobody does,” Wu said. “People are still coming to work when they’re sick.”

With resources scarce, Wu said he doesn’t advise testing for people who don’t have symptoms and haven’t had a potential exposure.

“I would wait for exposures, I would wait for if you’re sick,” he said.

**How long after exposure should someone get tested?**

According to the CDC, vaccinated people who come in contact with someone who has COVID-19 should be tested 5-7 days after that exposure, while unvaccinated people should be tested immediately after being exposed, then again 5-7 days later if symptoms develop.

People who develop COVID-19 symptoms — fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue and more — are advised to seek testing immediately.

A spokesperson for the Connecticut Department of Public Health said the agency recommends following the CDC’s guidance and testing on the fifth day after exposure.

**Where are tests currently available?**

Connecticut residents can seek COVID-19 tests from local pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreens, though prompt appointments there are increasingly difficult to find. They may also purchase at-home

**“We don’t need the tests if everybody follows [safety protocols] to the letter of the law, but nobody does. People are still coming to work when they’re sick.”**

Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare

tests online or in stores.

Additionally, more than a dozen state-supported testing sites have popped up in recent weeks, spanning across Connecticut. Sites in the Hartford area include:

- Corner of Albany Ave & Woodland Street in Hartford (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- Veterans Memorial Stadium in New Britain (Monday and Wednesday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 12-7 p.m.)
- City Hall Parking Lot in Bristol (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 12-7 p.m.)
- Cross Street AME Zion Church in Middletown (Tuesday 3-6 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m.)
- Parking lot at 13 Orange St in Meriden (Tuesday and Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursday 3-6 p.m.)

All of the those locations, as well as more of the other sites supported by the state, will be closed on New Year’s Day.

A full list of state-supported sites across Connecticut is available at [portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/State-Supported-COVID-Testing-Sites](https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/State-Supported-COVID-Testing-Sites).

Other sites, such as one at Bradley International Airport, have opened in recent days as well.

**What types of tests are available?**

There are two main types of tests that can reveal if someone has COVID-19: PCR tests and antigen tests.

PCR tests are the most reliable method of detecting the disease, even when someone is not symptomatic, but results often take several days.

Antigen tests — including those that can be administered at home — are less sensitive and therefore often fail to detect COVID-19 in the early days of infection and while someone is shedding the virus, but can deliver results within minutes.

Experts say asymptomatic people should be careful relying on antigen tests due to their high rate of false negatives, particularly in people who have not yet developed symptoms.

**When are more testing options coming?**

Gov. Ned Lamont announced this week that the state will distribute three million COVID-19 tests, as well as N95 masks, to state residents.

Distribution, which is being managed at the town level, was set to begin Thursday, but has been postponed due to “shipping and warehouse delays.”

In addition, the federal government has promised to distribute 500 million rapid tests beginning next month.

# Maxwell guilty in sex abuse case

Jury finds socialite groomed teenage victims for Epstein

By Tom Hays and Larry Neumeister  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted Wednesday of luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by American millionaire Jeffrey Epstein.

The verdict capped a monthlong trial featuring sordid accounts of the sexual exploitation of girls as young as 14, told by four women who described being abused as teens in the 1990s and early 2000s at Epstein's palatial homes in Florida, New Mexico and New York.

Jurors deliberated for five full days before finding Maxwell guilty of five of six counts.

She faces the likelihood of years in prison — an outcome long sought by women who spent years fighting in civil courts to hold Maxwell accountable for her role in recruiting and grooming Epstein's teenage victims and sometimes join-



A courtroom sketch shows Ghislaine Maxwell at her trial Wednesday in New York. ELIZABETH WILLIAMS/AP

ing in the sexual abuse.

The defense had insisted Maxwell was a victim of a vindictive prosecution devised to deliver justice to women deprived of their main villain when Epstein killed himself while awaiting trial in 2019.

During the trial, prosecutors called 24 witnesses to give jurors a picture of life inside Epstein's homes — a subject of public fascination and speculation ever since his 2006 arrest in Florida in a child sex case.

A housekeeper testified

he was expected to be "blind, deaf and dumb" about the private lives of Epstein, a financier who cultivated friendships with influential politicians and business tycoons, and Maxwell, who had led a jet-setting lifestyle as the favorite child of a media mogul.

Pilots took the witness stand and dropped the names of luminaries — Britain's Prince Andrew and former Presidents Bill Clinton and Donald Trump — who flew on Epstein's private jets.

Jurors saw physical evidence like a folding massage table once used by Epstein and a "black book" that listed contact information for some of the victims under the heading "massages."

There were bank records showing he had transferred \$30.7 million to Maxwell, his longtime companion — one-time girlfriend, later employee.

But the core of the prosecution was the testimony of four women who said they were victimized by Maxwell and Epstein at tender ages.

Three testified using first names or pseudonyms to protect their privacy: Jane,

a television actress; Kate, a former model from Great Britain; and Carolyn, now a mom recovering from drug addiction.

The fourth was Annie Farmer, a psychologist who chose to use her real name after being vocal about her allegations in recent years.

They echoed one another in their descriptions of Maxwell's behavior: She used charm and gifts to gain their trust, taking an interest in their adolescent challenges and giving them assurances that Epstein could use his wealth and connections to fulfill their dreams.

They said the script would darken when Maxwell coaxed them into giving massages to Epstein that turned sexual, encounters she played off as normal: After one sexual massage, Kate, then 17, said Maxwell asked her if she'd had fun and told her: "You are such a good girl."

Carolyn testified that she was one of several underprivileged teens who lived near Epstein's Florida home in the early 2000s and took up an offer to give massages in exchange for \$100 bills, which prosecu-

tors described as "a pyramid of abuse."

Maxwell made all the arrangements, Carolyn told the jury, even though she knew the girl was only 14 at the time.

Jane said in 1994, when she was only 14, she was instructed to follow Epstein into a pool house at his Palm Beach estate, where he masturbated on her.

"I was frozen in fear," she told the jury, adding that assault was the first time she had ever seen a penis. She also directly accused Maxwell of participating in her abuse.

Maxwell's lawyer asked Jane why it had taken so long to come forward.

"I was scared," she said, choking back tears. "I was embarrassed, ashamed. I didn't want anybody to know any of this about me."

The last to testify, Farmer described how Maxwell touched her breasts while giving her a massage at Epstein's New Mexico ranch and how Epstein unexpectedly crawled into bed and pressed himself against her.

Maxwell, 60, denied the charges through her lawyers.

Still, she declined to take

the risk of testifying, telling the judge: "The government has not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt so there is no reason for me to testify."

"The charges against Ghislaine Maxwell are for things that Jeffrey Epstein did," one of Maxwell's lawyers, Bobbi Sternheim, emphasized to the jury. "But she is not Jeffrey Epstein and she is not like Jeffrey Epstein."

Maxwell's legal team questioned whether the accusers' memories were faulty, or had been influenced by lawyers seeking big payouts from Maxwell and from Epstein's estate in civil court.

The legal fights involving Epstein and Maxwell are not over.

Maxwell still awaits trial on two counts of perjury.

Lawsuits involving the abuse allegations also continue, including one in which a woman not involved in the trial, Virginia Giuffre, says she was coerced into sexual encounters with Prince Andrew when she was 17. Andrew has denied her account and that lawsuit is not expected to come to trial for many months.

## NEWS BRIEFING

### Russian court orders ban on second rights group in as many days

From news services

MOSCOW — A Moscow court ordered the closure of one of Russia's most prominent human rights groups Wednesday, a day after its parent organization also was shut down.

The ruling by Moscow's City Court will close the Memorial Human Rights Center, which keeps a tally of political prisoners. On Tuesday, the country's Supreme Court ordered the shuttering of Memorial International, which was founded in 1989 by Soviet dissidents to preserve memories of Soviet repression.

The shutdowns reflected President Vladimir Putin's determination to control the narrative of some of the most painful and repressive chapters in Russian history and keep dissidents at bay. Since January, the Kremlin has accelerated a campaign to stifle dissent, clamping down on independent media, religious groups and political opponents.

Memorial's list of political prisoners stands at 435 names — twice as many as the government acknowledged in the late Soviet period. Prosecutors accused the human rights group of justifying "international terrorist and extremist organizations" by including on its list imprisoned members of religious groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses.

That list includes Alexei Navalny, a prominent opposition leader, who was poisoned with what Western intelligence agencies believe is a Russian-made nerve agent.

Prosecutors said the group promoted "biased materials on human rights topics" that were used to discredit "the structure of the Russian Federation." They said members of the organization had "participated in all protest move-

ments" and "supported all protests aimed at destabilizing the country," including Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation.

Prosecutors also accused the group of failing to comply with a 2012 "foreign agent" law, the same reason the Supreme Court gave Tuesday in closing down Memorial International. The law requires designated organizations to meet onerous financial reporting rules and to add a disclaimer to all public communication warning it was produced by a "foreign agent."

The human rights center was named a "foreign agent" in 2013, shortly after the law came into effect, while Memorial International, its parent group, was designated as such in 2016.

**Nuclear treaty conference:** An international conference on a landmark Cold War-era nuclear treaty is poised to be postponed because coronavirus cases are surging in the host city of New York.

Already delayed multiple times because of the pandemic, the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference was to start Jan. 4 at the United Nations' headquarters, bringing delegations from around the world together to discuss the state of the 1970 pact.

But after the U.N. expressed concerns Monday about the resurgent virus and said the world body couldn't staff an in-person conference, participants were reluctant to proceed, conference President-designate Gustavo Zlauvinen said in a letter Tuesday to the group.

He said the event would be put off if participants didn't tell him otherwise by Wednesday evening.

It's not yet clear how long the gathering would be delayed, or whether all or some of the events might be



**Predicting 2022:** Shamans hold photos of U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday in Lima, Peru. As part of a year-end ritual, the shamans predict political and social issues for the coming year. They also asked that the COVID-19 pandemic end and that world leaders be cleansed in order to make wise decisions in 2022. GUADALUPE PARDO/AP

held virtually. Participants are due Thursday to discuss what to do.

**Flare-up in Gaza:** An Israeli and three Palestinians were wounded Wednesday in the first exchange of fire in months on the Gaza frontier. The violence came as Israel announced measures aimed at improving living conditions in the occupied West Bank after a rare meeting of top officials.

Israel has announced a number of measures in recent months it says are aimed at easing tensions, but they have had little visible impact on the ground, where attacks by both Israeli settlers and Palestinians are on the rise. There have been no peace talks in more than a decade.

The Israeli military said a civilian near the security fence was slightly wounded by gunfire from Gaza, and that it responded with tank fire at multiple military positions manned by Hamas. The militant group has ruled the territory since 2007.

The Gaza Health Ministry said three Palestinians were wounded, without saying if they were civilians or fighters.

Earlier, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz approved a series of measures aimed at improving relations with the Palestinians after hosting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at his home in Israel late Tuesday.

It was the first time Abbas met an Israeli official inside the country since 2010. The two discussed security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which administers pockets of the occupied West Bank.

**Vaccine pass in France:** The government of France is forging ahead with efforts to increase pressure on unvaccinated people to get coronavirus shots, as the country reported 208,000 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday — a record fueled by the omicron variant.

Health Minister Oliv-

ier Veran on Wednesday defended a government plan to allow only the fully vaccinated to enjoy continued access to places such as restaurants, cinemas, theaters, museums, and sports arenas.

The pass will also be required on regional trains and buses and domestic flights.

Veran said at a parliamentary hearing that the record number of infections means that more than two French people are testing positive every second for COVID-19. Veran estimated that about 10% of the French population has been in contact recently with a person infected with the virus.

France has vaccinated 77% of its population and is rushing out booster shots, again to combat omicron. But more than 4 million adults remain unvaccinated, including more than 1 million people over age 65.

More than 3,400 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized in intensive care units Wednesday, an increase

of 10% over the past week. The figure represents two thirds of ICU beds occupied by people infected with the virus. But the number is lower than during the previous peak in the spring, when about 6,000 COVID-19 patients needed intensive care.

The government wants the vaccine pass in place by mid-January.

**Balmy Alaska:** In a holiday season of extreme weather events, this one stands out: a 67-degree Fahrenheit reading in Alaska.

The reading Sunday, from a tidal station on Kodiak Island, set a statewide temperature record for December, the National Weather Service reported.

The temperature at the station, in southern Alaska, reached the 60s again Monday before falling to 55 degrees Tuesday morning. Rick Thoman, a climate specialist with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy in Fairbanks, said on Twitter.

## Biden, Putin set to hold call amid Russia's demand for security guarantees

By Aamer Madhani  
Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — President Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin will speak Thursday as the Russian leader has stepped up his demands for security guarantees in Eastern Europe while maintaining an unsettling buildup of troops near Russia's border with Ukraine.

The two leaders will

discuss "a range of topics, including upcoming diplomatic engagements," National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne said in a statement announcing the call.

The talks come as the U.S. and Western allies have watched the massing of Russian forces along the border, growing to an estimated 100,000 and fueling fears that Moscow is preparing to further invade Ukraine.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke Wednesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said Blinken "reiterated the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's military buildup on Ukraine's borders."

Putin said this week that he would ponder options if the

West fails to meet his push for security guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine.

Earlier this month, Moscow submitted draft security documents demanding that NATO deny membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet countries and roll back its military deployments in Central and Eastern Europe.

The U.S. and its allies have refused to offer Russia

the kind of guarantees on Ukraine that Putin wants, citing NATO's principle that membership is open to any qualifying country. They agreed to hold talks with Russia next month to discuss its concerns.

The U.S. and Russia are to hold talks Jan. 10. Moscow and NATO representatives are expected to meet that same week as well as Russia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in

Europe, which includes the United States.

In Thursday's call, which was requested by the Russians, Biden is expected to stress to Putin that the U.S. is united with its allies but will demonstrate a willingness to engage in "principled diplomacy" with Russia, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on the upcoming call.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Hartford to distribute 8K test kits despite state delay

By Seamus McAvoy  
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The city of Hartford will distribute about 8,000 free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing kits at several locations across the city beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday, officials announced Wednesday night.

The kits, purchased by the city, are separate from the more than 15,000 Hartford expected to receive from the state. Those state kits are part of a shipment of millions more that was stuck on the West Coast in a shipping and distribution bottleneck as of Wednesday night, state officials said.

Hartford’s ability to move forward with its planned distribution operation comes as a boost to residents, as COVID-19 cases reach record highs and demand for testing intensifies.

Maly Rosado, city council president, said the announcement is “great news for Hartford.”

“With the rise of the omicron variant, demand for testing has skyrocketed,” Rosado said in a statement.

“These at-home kits are easy to use and will break down barriers to testing, helping give our residents peace of mind.”

Kits will be available at the Hartford Public Library downtown as well as multiple library branches, as well as at select community recreation centers and a community testing location at Albany Avenue and Woodland Street.

Hartford residents much show proof of residence through a state or municipal ID, or a recent piece of mail with another photo ID. Each adult is eligible to receive one kit, which each contain two

tests.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin urged people to only seek out the kits if they have reason to believe they’ve been exposed, or are in contact with someone who is particularly vulnerable.

Bronin also asked those who can afford to purchase the rapid tests at the store to do so, and leave the free tests for those most in need.

“It is important to distribute these kits quickly to those who need them, and it’s important to ensure that they’re distributed in an equitable and accessible way,” he said.

The state’s announcement Wednesday that the shipment of millions of testing kits would be delayed sent municipal officials scrambling late into the evening as they debated whether to postpone or cancel their distribution plans, which had been meticulously scheduled and widely promoted.

The delay also comes during a surge in demand for testing, driven largely by highly transmissible omicron variant. The state reported 7,520 cases on Wednesday — the most of any single day during the pandemic.

At some PCR testing sites, residents are facing hours-long lines. Hundreds of cars packed into a pair of commuter lots in downtown Bristol Tuesday afternoon, before a gun threat from a frustrated driver prompted officials to close the site early.

Sema4, the Stamford-based laboratory once in charge of 23 testing sites across Connecticut, pulled out of its contract with the state in December following a controversy involving investments made by a firm founded by Annie Lamont.

While people generally need to show negative PCR tests in order to clear protocols set up by public schools and many workplaces, demand for the rapid at-home tests have surged during the winter holiday period.

In Hartford, kits will be distributed by library staff and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers at the library locations, and by Hartford Health and Human Services staff at the testing sites.

“With the Omicron variant of the COVID virus so prevalent these days, I am glad that we’re able to get these tests out to our community quickly and into the hands of Hartford residents,” said Nick Lebron, city council member and chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

The location and times for Hartford’s sites Thursday are listed below:

- Hartford Public Library, Downtown Branch (500 Main St, Hartford): 10 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
- Hartford Public Library, Camp Field Branch (30 Campfield Ave, Hartford): 10 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
- Hartford Public Library, Albany Avenue Branch (1250 Albany Ave, Hartford): 10 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
- CVS Arroyo Center testing clinic (30 Pope Park Dr., Hartford): 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.
- Albany and Woodland testing clinic (1161 Albany Ave, Hartford): 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.
- Parker Memorial Center (2621 Main Street, Hartford): 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
- Metzner Center (680 Franklin Ave, Hartford): 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

New infections jump to record high across US

By Kathleen Foody  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — More than a year after the vaccine was rolled out, new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. have soared to their highest level on record at over 265,000 per day on average, a surge driven largely by the highly contagious omicron variant.

New cases per day have more than doubled over the past two weeks, eclipsing the mark of 250,000, set in mid-January, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The fast-spreading mutant version of the virus has cast a pall over Christmas and New Year’s, forcing communities to scale back or call off festivities just weeks after it seemed as if Americans were about to enjoy an almost normal holiday season. Thousands of flights have been canceled amid staffing shortages blamed on the virus.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, said Wednesday that there is no need to cancel small home gatherings among vaccinated and boosted family and friends.

But “if your plans are to go to a 40- to 50-person New Year’s Eve party with all the bells and whistles and everybody hugging and kissing and wishing each other a happy new year, I would strongly recommend that this year we not do that,” he said.

The picture is grim elsewhere, especially in Europe, with World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus saying he is worried about omicron combining with the delta variant to produce a “tsunami” of cases. That, he said, will put “immense pressure on exhausted health workers and health systems on the brink of collapse.”



Avgieo Lopez, 10, receives his first shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday in Lawrence, Mass. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

The number of Americans in the hospital with COVID-19 is running at around 60,000, or about half the figure seen in January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

While hospitalizations sometimes lag behind cases, the hospital figures may reflect both the protection conferred by the vaccine and the possibility that omicron is not making people as sick as previous versions.

COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have climbed over the past two weeks from an average of 1,200 per day to around 1,500.

Public health experts will be watching the numbers in the coming week for indications of the vaccines’ effectiveness in preventing serious illness, keeping people out of the hospital and relieving strain on exhausted health care workers, said Bob Bednarczyk, a professor of global health and epidemiology at Emory University.

CDC data suggests that the unvaccinated are hospitalized at much higher rates than those who have gotten inoculated, even if the effectiveness of the shots decreases over time, he said.

“If we’re able to weather this surge with hopefully minimal disruptions to the overall health care system, that is a place where

vaccines are really showing their worth,” Bednarczyk said.

It’s highly unlikely that hospitalization numbers will ever rise to their previous peak, said Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School Public Health. Vaccines and treatments developed since last year have made it easier to curb the spread of the virus and minimize serious effects among people with breakthrough infections.

“It’s going to take some time for people to get attuned to the fact that cases don’t matter the same way they did in the past,” he said.

But even with fewer people hospitalized compared with past surges, the virus can wreak havoc on hospitals and health care workers, Adalja added.

Several European countries, including Britain, France, Greece and Spain, also reported record case counts this week, prompting a ban on music at New Year’s celebrations in Greece and a renewed push to encourage vaccination by French authorities.

WHO reported that new COVID-19 cases worldwide increased 11% last week from the week before, with nearly 5 million recorded Dec. 20-26. But the U.N. health agency also noted a decline in cases in South Africa, where omicron was first detected just over a month ago, and that early data from that country, the U.K. and Denmark suggest a reduced risk of hospitalization with omicron, but said that more data is needed.

WHO’s emergencies chief, Dr. Michael Ryan said it will be important in coming weeks to “suppress transmission of both variants to the minimum that we can.”



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# Tax credit to boost 200K families

Enhanced EITC program covered by pandemic relief

Associated Press

Nearly 200,000 low-to-moderate income families in Connecticut who benefit from the state's earned income tax credit program will soon receive an extra tax refund, Gov. Ned Lamont announced Wednesday.

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services plans to issue checks for the additional credit to eligible households before the end of February.

"Enhancing the 2020 Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit provides direct relief to workers doing their best to provide for their families while confronting pandemic-related costs from masks and tests to childcare and internet access," Lamont, a Democrat, said in a written statement.

Under the Lamont administration's plan, the state revenue agency will retroactively increase the 2020 tax credit from 23% of the federal earned income tax credit to 41.5% for eligible households that earned up to \$56,844 in 2020 and filed for the 2020 EITC.

The amount of each household's payment will ultimately depend on the size of their federal tax credit, which the IRS calculates based on a taxpayers' income, marital status and

number of qualifying children.

A single parent of two, for example, whose income meets the federal poverty level and who received a \$1,246 state credit in the spring will now receive an additional \$1,002, according to Lamont's office.

The \$75 million cost of enhancing Connecticut's credit will be covered by the state's share of federal COVID-19 relief funds. The Connecticut earned income tax credit was created in

2011 and has had varying rates over the last decade.

Republican legislators criticized Lamont for deciding on his own to send checks to people who will already benefit from an earned income tax credit expansion that was included in the last state budget.

House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora and Rep. Holly Cheeseman, the ranking House Republican on the Finance Committee, issued a joint statement

that said the money could be spent on other "urgent issues" such as funding for domestic violence organizations, reducing the unemployment fund debt that businesses will have ultimately have to repay, or implementing a COVID-19 testing program to keep students in school.

"This unilateral, retro-active change to tax policy made by Governor Lamont isn't just political pandering," they said, "it's a slap in the face to the legislature."

Remembering Peter Marshall, the friend, runner and loving husband who went viral for marrying his wife again after Alzheimer's diagnosis



Peter Marshall looks to his wife, Lisa Marshall, as they pose with family, friends and other supporters at the conclusion of the Scotland Scoot, Peter's 169th and final race in each of Connecticut's towns, on Nov. 24, 2019, in Scotland, Conn. **COURANT FILE**

## 'A beautiful life'



Lori Riley

I'll admit I was a little nervous the first time I ran with Peter Marshall. I had never dealt with anyone with early-onset Alzheimer's, which he was diagnosed with in April 2018.

I was working on a story on Peter and Lisa, his wife, the love of his life and his caretaker, as Peter's health declined. Peter had been a runner and was hoping to finish his goal of running a race in each

of the state's 169 towns, which he accomplished in November 2019.

When I met Peter in the fall of 2019, he was struggling to express himself but could still drive a car and dress himself. His sense of humor and playful sarcasm were still intact. When Peter and Lisa hosted a Roaring 20s themed retirement party at their home in Andover in February 2020, I was stunned to watch them dancing elaborately around their living room.

Last December, Peter had asked Lisa, in his own way, if she wanted to get married. He wasn't sure who she was most of the time, but he liked her. He asked her if she liked him. She said yes. Lisa's

daughter Sarah is a wedding planner, and Peter and Lisa renewed their vows in a beautiful ceremony this spring. Lisa knew that Peter knew why he was there. They danced and their story went viral. Lisa has since become a national spokesperson for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients, offering advice, tips and talking about practical matters.

What Peter and Lisa did for me, and for the 20,000 people who follow Lisa's Facebook page called "Oh Hello, Alzheimer's" was to offer us a honest glimpse of day-to-day life with an person with early-onset Alzheimer's.

Turn to Marshall, Page 8

## 86 agricultural groups receive Farm Aid grants

By Christopher Arnott  
Hartford Courant

The Farm Aid charity distributed \$817,500 in grant money nationwide to 86 grassroots farming organizations. Five groups in Connecticut each received grants of \$7,500.

The Connecticut beneficiaries are:

- Connecticut Farmland Trust in Hartford, whose stated mission is to "preserve Connecticut farmland for current and future generations of farmers," will use the grant to support its FarmLink social media project, a collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture that matches farmers with farmland they can lease or purchase.
- CitySeed, which operates several farmers' markets in New Haven, will use the money to help start a new farmers' market in the city's Dixwell neighborhood.
- Green Village Initiative's grant will go to "create a more just food

system in Bridgeport," according to the Farm Aid website.

- KNOX, which its website says is "using horticulture as a catalyst for community engagement" in Hartford through community gardens, tree planting and other urban environmental programs, will use its grant to provide training and mentoring to underemployed and new farmers.
- The Hartford Food System and the Connecticut Food System Alliance jointly received \$7,500, which it will use (according to Farm Aid) "to solicit input and policy priorities from Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) farmers and farm business leaders to be used in the development of a Food Action Plan for Connecticut."

Farm Aid also gave \$15,000 in grant money to the Northeast Organic Farming Association, which has a Connecticut

Turn to Grants, Page 8

### WEST HARTFORD

## Former UConn regional campus sold for \$2.75M

By Kenneth R. Gosselin  
Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD — The former UConn regional campus in West Hartford — one of the few large properties left to be developed in town — has been sold for \$2.75 million, according to town records, nearly nine months after it was first disclosed a buyer had been found.

In a brief news release Wednesday, the buyer was identified only as West Hartford 1 LLC. Specific plans for the 58-acre property near Bishops Corner were not outlined.

Ideanomics once planned a thriving technology hub for the property, touting that it had the potential to bring hundreds of high-tech

jobs to Greater Hartford but decided to sell the property after its plans for the \$400 million "Fintech Village" dissolved.

Ideanomics submitted a regulatory filing in March saying it had reached a deal to sell the property for \$2.75 million, almost half what Ideanomics paid for it in 2018.

The filing did not name the buyer or outline what the new owners intended to do with the property. A spokesman for the buyers declined to provide additional information about them or their plans Wednesday.

"We have committed to continue the town's uninterrupted use of the ballfields on the property for

Turn to Campus, Page 8

## Officials: Child burned attempting TikTok craze

By Jesse Leavenworth  
Hartford Courant

A child in East Haven was severely burned while attempting a social media challenge that calls for igniting a bottle of alcohol, fire officials said Wednesday.

The victim was being treated at the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Center, Fire Chief Matt Marcarelli said.

Firefighters responded Tuesday at about 8:30 p.m. to a call about a burn victim and learned the child had been trying the latest TikTok craze called

"the whoosh bottle experiment," Marcarelli said. Igniting alcohol inside a bottle is meant to create a "whoosh" sound, he said.

Warning that fire is not a toy, the chief said, "This could easily have led to a fatality as well as a major fire in the house. Alcohol is a volatile flammable liquid and can act as an accelerant."

Fire Marshal Charles Miller investigated the incident and will be reaching out to local public schools to make sure kids are aware of the potential dangers. Miller urged

parents to "take a few minutes to talk to your children about the dangers of playing with ignitable liquids and matches and monitor what they are watching. This experiment when done incorrectly can cause severe burns that can permanently scar an individual."

A representative of TikTok could not be reached immediately.

"We have already reached out to TikTok demanding answers as to how this dangerous 'Whoosh Bottle Experiment' was not removed

from their platform," Attorney General William Tong said.

"We've been assured by TikTok leaders in the past that they have systems in place to remove this harmful content," Tong said, "but clearly those systems are not working. A Connecticut child is now seriously injured because of the dangerous content on their platform. We expect to meet with TikTok leaders, Connecticut parents and educators in early 2022 and urge them to step up and do better to protect our children."

## Newington police: Suspected shooter arrested in Massachusetts after chase

By Christine Dempsey  
Hartford Courant

A suspect was arrested in Massachusetts early Wednesday after a chase through the Hartford area following gunfire in at least two towns.

The man, whose name was not released Wednesday afternoon, is in the custody of the Massachusetts State Police and has not been

charged by Connecticut law enforcement, Newington police said.

There are no reports of injuries from the chase, nor from gunfire.

Newington police said the car he was driving appeared to be tied to incidents of shots being fired in New Britain and Vernon. A handgun was tossed out a window during the chase, they said.

It all started about 2:10

a.m., when Newington officers working on a special project to combat car thefts tried to stop a blue Mitsubishi Lancer. The driver wouldn't pull over for them, but police immediately stopped the pursuit because it would not have fallen within state pursuit policy, police said.

The reason for the motor vehicle stop wasn't clear Wednesday afternoon.

They spotted the car again

at 3:45 a.m., and the car again engaged officers in a pursuit, which police said they again terminated.

Less than an hour later, police received reports that the Mitsubishi was involved in two "shooting incidents," one in Vernon and a more recent one in New Britain. They then chased the car, and state troopers joined in.

The pursuit went into West Hartford, back to Newington,

onto the Berlin Turnpike and to I-84. During the chase on I-84, police saw something thrown out of the car that turned out to be a handgun.

As the chase headed east on I-84, the Massachusetts State Police were alerted and threw stop sticks into the road to puncture the car's tires. The Lancer eventually stopped in Sturbridge, and the driver was taken into custody, police said.

Vernon Sgt. Robert Marra said police in his town received a report of shots fired at 87 Village St. at 12:01 a.m. Police gathered evidence, including shell casings, and were able to identify the driver. Marra was not able to release the man's name Wednesday.

The man is connected to Village Street, Marra said.

"It's definitely not random," he said.



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CONNECTICUT

Marshall

from Page 6

Peter died Sunday night, the day after Christmas, at age 56. Before he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he was an engineer who solved intricate problems, a gentle, sensitive man with a wonderful sense of humor who doted on his wife.

The two, who had been married in 2009 after an eight-year long-distance relationship, were still madly in love.

I never knew him then. I only knew the Peter with Alzheimer's. While I was working on my story in the fall of 2019, I figured I could run with him once a week to get to know him better and give Lisa a little time to herself.

We had so much fun. To my surprise, Peter knew exactly where he was as we ran near their house on Andover Lake where he had grown up. We ran to his parents' house on the other side of the lake. We ran through the woods where he had played as a child.

There are so many hills around the lake, and we complained about every one of them. One day, we were struggling up a hill and we passed a woman walking by. Peter — out of the blue — told her, "She's killing me." He was forever grouching about the hills. One snowy day, we ran and I threw a snowball at him. To my surprise (I have terrible aim), it hit him and the next snowbank we went by, he jokingly threatened to push me into the snow. We went sledding with my daughter on Horsebarn Hill last February, and he laughed all the way down.

When he couldn't run anymore, we would walk and pick up garbage on the side of the road and talk. He probably didn't understand what I said, and sometimes I sort of understood what he said, but it was all good



Peter Marshall kisses his wife, Lisa Marshall, after he completed a race in Scotland, Conn., in 2019. COURANT FILE

because Peter loved to be active and be outdoors, and so do I.

Sometimes we didn't talk. I would notice the patterns of the tree branches against the sky or the clouds or the ripples on the lake more than I did with any other running partner.

When a car came by, Peter would always put himself between me and the car. He was always a gentleman.

When COVID-19 hit, we didn't see much of each other until the spring of 2021. Peter didn't like to run anymore. He would start off running, then stop and walk. I joked to him that we at least had to look like we were running when the cars drove by. He would pick up sticks and collect pinecones and bring them back to show to Lisa. We laughed and acted silly, and it was good. My heart always lifted after those visits.

In June, I brought my puppy for a visit. Peter had been having a bad day and the puppy perked him right up. "Look, Tart," he said to Lisa as he knelt on the ground beside the dog. Lisa looked at me. "Did he just say 'Tart'?" she asked. I nodded. It was his old nickname for her. He hadn't called her that in a long time, causing her to tear up. The puppy had somehow pulled that memory out of him.

A few weeks ago, I brought them some cookies. Lisa answered the door in tears. Peter had

declined rapidly in the last few months and had been manic and combative. In 2016, he ran the Hartford Marathon. Five years later, he was struggling to walk a three-mile loop around the lake. One day, he couldn't walk down the stairs and a hospital bed was installed in the front room. Hospice was already there to help.

Then Lisa's Facebook page went silent. I knew she was struggling and so was Peter. Many days were frustrating and infuriating and exhausting for her. Lisa always, always wanted her husband and her life back, but she always looked at the disease through the prism that it was Alzheimer's talking or acting a certain way, not her husband. And that's how she got through it, day by day.

She wrote in memory of Peter on her Facebook page Monday morning: "I want to walk away from this the day after knowing I gave him a beautiful life."

My beloved Peter passed away peacefully last night surrounded by so much love. He is free of her horrendous grip, for that I am relieved.

My heart is broken, but I have no regrets.

My heart is broken, but I will find Joy in our memories.

I'm the luckiest girl in the world.

Peter gave me a beautiful life."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

Grants

from Page 6

cut chapter. NOFA runs a variety of food and agriculture-based initiatives, as well as organic land care programs. The grant will help the six states in the association to work on state-by-state and regional policy decisions and improve advocacy efforts for farmers in the northeast.

Elisabeth Moore, executive director of Connecticut Farmland Trust, says the Farm Aid grant is "very important for us. We are using it for social media outreach, and we don't have money in our budget specifically for that." This is the second Farm Aid grant the trust has received.

Farm Aid grants recipients were prioritized this year, the release states, around such criteria as "working to support family farmers, advance racial equity and social justice in our food system, advance farm-led solutions to climate

change, and build capacity for systemic change in our farm and food systems."

Farm Aid is perhaps best known for its star-studded annual benefit concerts, led by the organization's co-founder Willie Nelson. The 2021 and 2018 Farm Aid concerts were held in Hartford, at the Xfinity Theater, where a farm expo on the concert grounds included food and demonstrations from Connecticut farmers. The 2021 concert line-up included Willie Nelson & Family, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews & Tim Reynolds, Margo Price, Bettye Lavette and others.

Nelson released a statement when the grants were announced: "Thanks to generous supporters from across the country — and a triumphant return to the Farm Aid stage in Hartford, Connecticut — Farm Aid is glad to make these grants to grassroots organizations that support family farmers across the country. These folks are the lifeblood of the movement for family farm-

ers and their work is essential for an equitable and sustainable farm and food system for us all."

Earlier in 2021, Farm Aid gave \$113,000 to families on farms and ranches impacted by "immediate and long-term climate disasters," as well as \$17,500 for strategic grants to "advance family farm agriculture," \$24,000 in small \$500 grants to help farm families with essential household expenses, and around \$20,000 in scholarships for agriculture students. Added to the December grants, Farm Aid gave a total of \$992,000 this past year to family farms and farming organizations.

The concert is a major fundraising event, but Farm Aid is a year-round operation that also accepts donations at farmaid.org/donate. A complete list of the 2021 grant recipients is at farmaid.org/our-work/grants.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

Campus

from Page 6

the foreseeable future," West Hartford 1 LLC said, in the release Wednesday. "We look forward to developing a vision for the property that engages our West Hartford neighbors, key community organizations and town officials."

Town officials have said they expect multifamily housing to figure into future redevelopment plans.

West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor said Wednesday town is excited about having a developer willing to invest in the property.

"We are really anxious to have the property remedi-

ated and also securing the ballfields, those are priorities for the town," Cantor said. "And then working with the developer on a plan for this really strategic property."

The redevelopment of the former campus is viewed

as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to boost the town's tax rolls.

But the redevelopment has been complicated because portions of the property where many of the campus buildings now stand remain contaminated with PCBs. The cost of clean-up could figure heavily into the scope of the future development.

Cantor said the town has yet to see specific plans for the property.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what they have in mind for that space and we will, I'm sure, be sharing some information on what we think will work," Cantor said.

The campus buildings are located on one half of the property and town officials have said it is unlikely single-family houses would be built on that half. The costs of clean-up would be too high. So that could mean apartments as an option, which would be within

walking distance of Bishops Corner.

But because the area is zoned only for single-family and uses such as churches, a zone change or special permit would be required. UConn, as a state entity, was exempt from local zoning.

The town decided not to seek to purchase all or any part of the Asylum Avenue property, bisected by Trout Brook Drive.

The town, however, did want to work with the new owners to continue using the ballfields.

John Cafasso of commercial real estate services firm Colliers International, which represented Ideanomics in the transaction, said the sale was a complicated transaction with "several key stakeholders."

"We are pleased with the outcome and excited to see the transformation of the property into a new use that will add to an already vibrant West Hartford community," Cafasso said, in a release.

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# BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

## Judge orders new talks in Purdue Pharma case

Opioid lawsuits against Sacklers, company on hold as deal being reworked

Associated Press

Even though one judge rejected OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma’s sweeping settlement of thousands of lawsuits over the opioid crisis, another refused Wednesday to allow litigation to move ahead just yet against members of the Sackler family who own the company — but also ordered negotiations for a reworked settlement.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain on Wednesday granted Purdue’s request to extend an injunction until Feb. 1 protecting the company and the Sacklers from litigation. He also ordered Purdue, the Sacklers, the states and other parties to negotiate a new settlement.

In a hearing conducted Wednesday via video conference, the White Plains, New York-based judge warned the family and others that he would end the protections early if there are not serious talks toward a new settlement.

“If the parties do not negotiate in good faith,” he said, “they will face the consequences of the injunction unraveling.”

Drain also approved the company’s settlement in September.

The deal had been hashed out over two years of negotiations and mediation in bankruptcy court. Eventually, lawyers for the overwhelming majority of local governments and states signed on.

The plan called for members of the Sackler family to give up ownership of Purdue, which would be transformed into a new company whose profits would be used to fight the opioid crisis.

Sackler family members would also contribute \$4.5 billion in cash and charitable assets, with the money to go to victims of the crisis and efforts to end the crisis, which has been linked to more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000, counting overdoses of both prescription opioids and illicit ones, such as heroin and illegally produced fentanyl.

In exchange for the contributions, Sackler family members were also granted protections from lawsuits over opioids.

But eight states and one office in the U.S. Department of Justice objected. They said

it was improper for them to be forced to give up their right to sue members of the Sackler family, who themselves were not seeking bankruptcy protection.

The holdout states argued that the \$4.5 billion does not properly hold the family members accountable.

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon ruled in favor of those states, finding that judges do not have authority to grant third-party releases as Drain did.

Purdue said it would appeal while also trying again to strike a settlement deal that all the states would be willing to join. The Stamford, Connecticut-based company also asked Drain to protect it and the family from lawsuits while that’s sorted out.

A injunction previously in place was to expire Thursday.

Two states — Connecticut and Washington — argued that suits against the Sacklers should be allowed to move ahead immediately. Those states said they would not move ahead now with litigation against the company.

## Indonesia sets rules to lift ban on Boeing jet

By Edna Tarigan

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia said Wednesday it is lifting its ban on Boeing’s 737 Max aircraft, three years after one crashed into the Java Sea shortly after takeoff killing all 189 people on board.

The Transportation Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the aircraft will be permitted to fly in Indonesia, but only after airlines carry out airworthiness directives.

The ministry will also conduct inspections before the aircraft are allowed to operate in the country, said Novie Riyanto, the ministry’s director general of Civil Aviation.

“Several flight operators have stated that they have carried out airworthiness orders for 737 MAX aircraft, in accordance with FAA provisions and will prepare training and simulators at the nearest facility, in Singapore,” Riyanto said.

Governments grounded the Boeing 737 Max after a total of 346 people were killed in the crashes of the Lion Air flight in Indonesia on Oct. 29, 2018, and an Ethiopian Airlines flight on March 10, 2019.

Investigators blamed a computer system that pushed the plane’s nose downward in flight and couldn’t be overridden by pilots. Boeing has carried out technical upgrades to fix such problems.

Earlier this month, China became the last major market to approve the Boeing 737 Max after the United States allowed flights to resume in December 2020. European Union regulators gave permission in January. Brazil and Canada also have given approval.

Anton Sahadi, whose 24-year-old cousins Muhammad Rafi Ardian and Rian Ariandi died in the 2018 crash, said that he regrets the government decision to let the 737 Max fly again.

### BUSINESS BRIEFING

## Airlines cancel more US flights

NEW YORK — Hundreds of flights were canceled Wednesday as the omicron variant creates havoc both for travelers and for airlines that are having to cobble together flight crews as pilots, flight attendants and ground crews become infected or are exposed to others who have been.

Nearly 1,000 flights were canceled by Wednesday afternoon and that number has ticked higher throughout the day, according to data from the flight-tracking website FlightAware.

There were nearly 1,300 cancellations for flights entering, leaving or inside the U.S. Tuesday, and about 1,500 Monday.

Delta, United and JetBlue have all said that the omicron variant was causing enough staffing issues that flights were canceled.

## China: Satellites put crew at risk

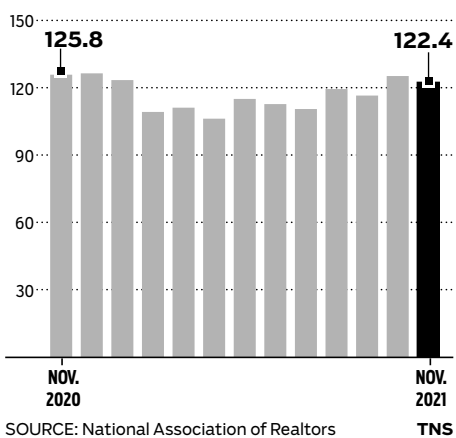
BEIJING — China is calling on the United States to protect a Chinese space station and its three-member crew after Beijing complained that satellites launched by Elon Musk’s SpaceX nearly struck the station.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman accused Washington on Tuesday of ignoring its obligations under a 1967 treaty on the peaceful use of space to protect the safety of the Tiangong station’s three-member crew following the July 1 and Oct. 21 incidents.

The Tiangong performed “evasive maneuvers” to “prevent a potential collision” with Starlink satellites launched by Space Exploration Technologies Corp., the government said in a Dec. 6 complaint to the U.N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

### Pending home sales

The Pending Home Sales Index, a measure of housing contract activity, fell 2.7 percent to 122.4 in November 2021.



Pipes for the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline are stored at the port of Mukran near Sassnitz, Germany, in 2020. Russia’s natural gas pipeline to Europe is built and ready to flow. But not so fast. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline faces a rocky road ahead. **STEFAN SAUER/DPA**

## Pipeline carries controversy

Opposed by US and others, Russian project faces hurdles

By David McHugh and Vladimir Isachenkov

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The pipeline is built and being filled with natural gas. But Russia’s Nord Stream 2 faces a rocky road before any gas flows to Germany, with its new leaders adopting a more skeptical tone toward the project and tensions ratcheting up over Russia’s troop buildup at the Ukrainian border.

The pipeline opposed by Ukraine, Poland and the U.S. awaits approval from Germany and the European Union to bypass other countries and start bringing natural gas directly to Europe.

The continent is struggling with a shortage that has sent prices surging, fueling inflation and raising fears about what would come next if gas supplies become critically low.

The U.S. has stressed targeting Nord Stream 2 as a way to counter any new Russian military move against Ukraine, and the project already faces legal and

bureaucratic hurdles. As European and U.S. leaders confer on how to deal with Russia’s pressure on Ukraine, persistent political objections — particularly from EU members like Poland — add another challenge to one of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s key projects.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel backed the pipeline, and the country’s new leader, Olaf Scholz, did so as her finance minister.

But his new government took a more distanced tone after the Greens party joined the governing coalition. The Greens’ campaign position was that the pipeline doesn’t help fight global warming and undermines strategic EU interests.

New German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock have said the project doesn’t meet EU anti-monopoly regulations.

“Nord Stream 2 was a geopolitical mistake,” Habeck recently told the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. “The question is open if it will be able to start operating,” adding that further “aggression” meant “nothing is off the table.”

Officials have not said what sanctions or other tools might be used on top of exist-

ing U.S. sanctions against ships connected to the project.

As chancellor, Scholz has been cautious in his comments, and it’s not clear if he’s willing to go as far as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who has said it’s “very unlikely” that gas will flow if Russia “renewed its aggression” toward Ukraine.

The pipeline would double the volume of gas pumped by Russian-controlled gas giant Gazprom directly to Germany, adding to a similar pipeline under the Baltic Sea and circumventing existing links through Poland and Ukraine. Gazprom argues it would allow more reliable long-term supply and help save billions in transit fees paid to Poland and Ukraine. Gazprom says the pipeline is part of its role as a long-term supplier of affordable energy to Europe, which is heavily dependent on natural gas imports.

Pipeline critics say it increases Russia’s leverage over Europe, pits member states against each other and deprives Ukraine of key financial support. Europe also went into winter with scant gas reserves that have sent prices soaring to eight times what they were at the start of the year, with Putin using the crunch to underline his push for final approval of the project.

## Israel scrambles to contain spread of bird flu

By Isabel Kershner

The New York Times

JERUSALEM — Israel is acting to contain a severe outbreak of bird flu that has already led to mass culling of infected poultry and has caused the deaths of about 5,000 migratory cranes in a popular nature reserve in the north of the country.

The minister of environmental protection, Tamar Zandberg, described the outbreak, identified as the H5N1 type, as “one of the worst blows to wildlife in Israel’s history” after a visit to the Hula Nature Reserve this week. Hula is a wetland that is a central stop on the winter migration route to Africa.

The reserve, usually bustling with

bird-watchers at this time of year, is temporarily closed to visitors, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection said Wednesday that Zandberg was working to suspend the rest of the hunting season in the country, which normally runs until the end of January.

The fear, the ministry said, was that gunshots from bird hunters could cause the wild birds to fly off to other locations, spreading the disease, which it said could also be spread by contaminated car tires on hunters’ vehicles or on the soles of their shoes, or by the dogs retrieving their prey.

Officials have also warned of the danger of the transmission of bird flu from animals to humans, which could be deadly. No such cases have been recorded in Israel.

The first signs of the outbreak came about two months ago, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, with infections cropping up in chicken and turkey farms in different areas of the country.

Israel’s minister of agriculture and rural development, Oded Forer, said about 600,000 chickens had been culled. He said that would mean a shortfall of 15 million eggs per month over the next few months and that the department was working to import millions of eggs.

In an interview with Kan Radio, Israel’s public broadcaster, on Tuesday, Forer blamed the outdated, overcrowded chicken coops that he said were common in Israel for the severity of the outbreak of the virus.

BUSINESS



Charlotte Noel sells baguettes Dec. 19 at a bakery in Paris. The price of a traditional baguette is projected to rise up to 10 cents in 2022. **ANDREA MANTOVANI/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

In Paris, food costs are rising, even for the humble baguette

By Liz Alderman  
The New York Times

PARIS — At the Marché d’Aligre, a bustling open-air market in central Paris, Mohamed Sharif grabbed a piece of chalk and reluctantly marked up the price of clementines.

Transport costs for produce imported to France had more than doubled since fall amid a surge in gasoline prices, he said, one of several factors that have driven up wholesale costs for oranges from Spain, lychee from China and passion fruit from Vietnam — and the prices he must charge.

“Customers don’t understand why they are having to pay more for what they buy,” Sharif said, pricing a pound of clementines on a recent weekend at about \$2.15, up from 90 cents a week earlier. “People are buying less because costs are going up.”

Meat prices at a nearby butcher are up 10% since the summer. Some French cheeses are expected to rise 20% in the new year. Even the traditional baguette, a staple of the French diet,

will get more expensive, bakers say.

Inflation, relatively quiet in Europe for nearly a decade, is starting to make itself felt as high energy prices, labor shortages and supply chain bottlenecks set off by the end of pandemic lockdowns course through everyday life.

A record annual increase in prices, to 4.9% in the eurozone last month, is affecting Europe’s businesses, factories and commerce. But people trying to put food on the table are also beginning to get squeezed.

The outdoor fruit and vegetable sellers of the Marché d’Aligre, founded in 1779, are known as the least expensive in Paris, and strive to maintain affordable prices for basics no matter the economic climate, said Remy Costaz, whose family has operated a greengrocer stand since 1905.

But costs for a wide variety of goods have climbed with the inflationary surge. Among the market’s stall keepers and modest-income shoppers, the impact is already being felt. And many are preparing for

worse.

French bread is not being spared, either.

At Farine + O, an artisanal boulangerie, and at bakeries around France, the price of a traditional baguette is projected to rise up to 10 cents in the new year, said employees Charlotte Noel and Adriana Ostojic.

After shortages of loaves helped kindle the French Revolution, the government fixed prices to ensure that bread remained affordable for everyone. Those regulations ended in 1986, but boulangeries will try to pass rising costs to products like brioche before the baguette.

That has become harder amid soaring wheat prices and higher electricity bills for the bakers’ ovens. When the cost of a baguette rises, Noel said, “there’s no question that it impacts people.”

At Les Frangines d’Aligre fish shop, chaos from Britain’s exit from the European Union had also pushed prices up. A fishing trade war between France and Britain has raised the price of pollock and other fish from disputed waters 40%, said owner Christine Divenzo.

Seeking tech ‘self-reliance,’ China fueling global unease

By Joe McDonald  
Associated Press

BELJING — To help make China a self-reliant “technology superpower,” the ruling Communist Party is pushing the world’s biggest e-commerce company to take on the tricky, expensive business of designing its own processor chips — a business unlike anything Alibaba Group has done before.

Its 3-year-old chip unit, T-Head, unveiled its third processor in October, the Yitian 710 for Alibaba’s cloud computing business. Alibaba says for now, it has no plans to sell the chip to outsiders.

Other rookie chip developers including Tencent, a games and social media giant, and smartphone brand Xiaomi are pledging billions of dollars in line with official plans to create computing, clean energy and other technology that can build China’s wealth and global influence.

Processor chips play an increasingly critical role in products from smartphones and cars to medical devices and home appliances.

Shortages due to the coronavirus pandemic are disrupting global manufacturing and adding to worries about supplies.

Chips are a top priority in the ruling Communist Party’s marathon campaign to end China’s reliance on technology from the United States, Japan and other suppliers Beijing sees as potential economic and strategic rivals.

If it succeeds, business and political leaders warn that might slow down innovation, disrupt global trade and make the world poorer.

“Self-reliance is the foundation for the Chinese nation,” President Xi Jinping said in March. He called for China to become a “technology superpower” to safeguard “national economic security.”

Beijing might be chasing a



People gaze at the Yitian 710 processor chip Oct. 19 in Hangzhou, China. The chip was developed by Alibaba, an e-commerce powerhouse in China. **CHINATOPIX**

costly disappointment.

Even with huge official investments, businesspeople and analysts say chipmakers and other companies will struggle to compete if they detach from global suppliers of advanced components and technology — a goal no other country is pursuing.

“It’s hard to imagine any one country rebuilding all of that and having the best technology,” said Peter Hanbury, who follows the industry for Bain & Co.

Beijing’s campaign is adding to tension with Washington and Europe, which see China as a strategic competitor and complain it steals technology. They limit access to tools needed to improve its industries.

If the world were to decouple, or split into markets with incompatible standards and products, U.S.- or European-made parts might not work in Chinese computers or cars. Smartphone makers who have a single dominant global operating system

and two network standards might need to make unique versions for different markets. That could slow development.

Washington and Beijing need to “avoid that the world becomes separated,” U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in September.

China’s factories assemble the world’s smartphones and tablet computers but need components from the United States, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Chips are China’s biggest import, ahead of crude oil, at more than \$300 billion last year.

Official urgency over that grew after Huawei Technologies Ltd., China’s first global tech brand, lost access to U.S. chips and other technology in 2018 under sanctions imposed by the White House.

That crippled the telecom equipment maker’s ambition to be a leader in next-generation smartphones. American officials say Huawei is a security risk and might aid Chinese spying, an accusation the company denies.

### MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, December 30, 2021

▲ **DOW**  
36,488.63 +90.42

▲ **10-YR T-BOND**  
1.54% +0.06

▼ **GOLD**  
\$1,805.10 -5.10

**Dow Jones Industrials**  
Close: 36,488.63  
Change: 90.42 (0.2%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes			
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	36,488.63	+90.42	+19.22%
DOW Trans.	16,466.21	+75.26	+31.66%
DOW Util.	975.11	+5.99	+12.78%
NYSE Comp.	17,149.93	+15.77	+18.07%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,766.22	-15.51	+22.33%
S&P 500	4,793.06	+6.71	+27.61%
S&P 400	2,847.83	+15.59	+23.46%
Wilshire 5000	48,677.22	+34.37	+23.37%
Russell 2000	2,249.24	+2.73	+13.89%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
<b>FUELS</b>			
Crude Oil (bbl)	76.56	75.98	+57.79%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.99	4.06	+57.31%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.27	2.25	+59.55%
<b>METALS</b>			
Gold (oz)	1,805.10	1,810.20	-4.65%
Silver (oz)	22.85	23.11	-13.23%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange			
	For U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in	For U.S. \$
Britain	1.3489	.7414	
Canada	.7816	1.2795	
China	.1570	6.3683	
Euro	1.1344	.8815	
Japan	.008698	114.97	
Mexico	.048635	20.5613	

Money Rates			
	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.05	0.05	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.19	0.16	
5-yr T-Note	1.29	1.23	
10-yr T-Note	1.54	1.46	
30-yr T-Bond	1.96	1.85	

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	15,852.25	-111.45	-.70% +15.55%
London	7,420.69	+48.59	+.66% +14.86%
Hong Kong	23,086.54	-194.02	-.83% -15.22%
Nikkei	28,906.88	-162.28	-.56% +5.33%

Stocks of Local Interest						
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG. %CHG.
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	27.95	+23	+1218.4	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.49	+27 +41.2
AT&T Inc (T)	24.64	-.18	-14.3	Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.89	+03 +14.5
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	148.26	-4.89	+61.7	Meten Holding Group (METX)	.25	-.01 -87.3
Altamire Therapeutic (CYTO)	2.05	+5.4	+120.4	MetLife Inc (MET)	62.68	+07 +33.5
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.05	-.49	+14.5	Micron Tech (MU)	96.17	+3.23 +27.9
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	2.25	-.14	-68.8	MingZhu Logistics (YGMZ)	2.12	+3.6 -79.1
Amphenol Corp (APH)	87.94	+.82	...	Nikola Corp (NKLX)	9.88	-.67 -35.3
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.21	-.03	-2.8	Novartis AG (NVS)	88.12	-.01 -6.7
Apple Inc (AAPL)	179.38	+0.09	+35.2	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	300.01	-3.21 +129.8
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.93	+.58	+9.9	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	86.82	+.36 +28.5
Bank of America (BAC)	44.63	-.07	+47.2	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.17	-.40 -22.8
Barnes Group (B)	46.91	+0.06	-7.5	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.88	-.02 +38.3
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	18.40	+0.03	-19.2	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	57.58	-.43 +56.4
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	8.76	+.66	+98.6	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.52	-.12 +5.8
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2384.68	-2.23	+7.1	Pop Culture Grp Cp (CPOP)	3.26	+.95 -89.2
BridgeBio Pharma Inc (BBIO)	14.19	+.76	-80.0	Progenity Inc (PROG)	1.97	-.02 -62.9
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	62.29	-.06	+.4	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.08	+0.2 +39.7
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	103.70	+.93	+51.8	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.97	+.39 +13.2
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.79	-.11	-4.0	Puxin Ltd (NEW)	.54	+.24 -90.7
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	53.74	+.26	+42.5	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	85.89	-.13 +20.1
Charter Communic (CHTR)	656.28	+.49	-.8	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.96	-.32 +75.8
Cigna Corp (CI)	231.65	+1.11	+11.3	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	82.94	-.05 +14.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.59	+.08	-3.5	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	14.47	-.38 -36.1
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	3.01	-.18	-83.5	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	187.21	+.70 +4.8
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.94	-.44	-65.1	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.84	+.03 +28.7
Disney (DIS)	154.87	-.33	-14.5	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.59	-.02 +24.5
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	128.09	+.43	+40.1	TAL Education Grp AD (TAL)	3.44	-.37 -95.2
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	8.15	-.12	+31.9	Takung Art Co (TKAT)	5.21	+1.40 +252.0
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.76	+.52	+32.4	Terex Corp (TEX)	44.43	+.16 +27.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	90.61	+.55	+4.7	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1086.19	-2.28 +53.9
Flotek Industries (FTK)	1.11	+.32	-47.4	Tilray Inc (TLRY)	7.05	-.23 -14.6
Ford Motor (F)	20.56	-.20	+133.9	Travelers Cos (TRV)	157.50	+.38 +12.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.11	-.76	-54.3	United Rentals (URI)	334.12	+.55 +44.1
Gen Dynamics (GD)	207.89	+.22	+29.7	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	505.58	+2.64 +44.2
Gen Electric (GE)	94.79	+.51	+10.0	Virgin Galactic Hldg (SPCE)	13.04	-.77 -45.0
Hartford F'n Sv (HIG)	69.57	+.43	+42.0	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	296.72	-1.50 +36.7
Honeywell Intl (HON)	207.53	+.48	-2.4	Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.46	-.31 +13.0
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.09	+.08	+21.5	Webster Financial (WBS)	56.71	+.54 +34.5
IQVY Inc (IQ)	4.03	-.28	-76.9	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1013.13	-1.77 +1.2
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.38	+.08	+49.7	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.51	+.54 +3.0
Insigiasy (ISIG)	23.04	+4.02	+291.8	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	77.22	+.65 +11.3
Kaman (KAMN)	43.10	-.09	-24.6	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	23.35	+.31 +7
Keycorp (KEY)	23.30	+.11	+42.0			
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.84	+.26	+36.8			
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	36.97	-.01	+37.8			

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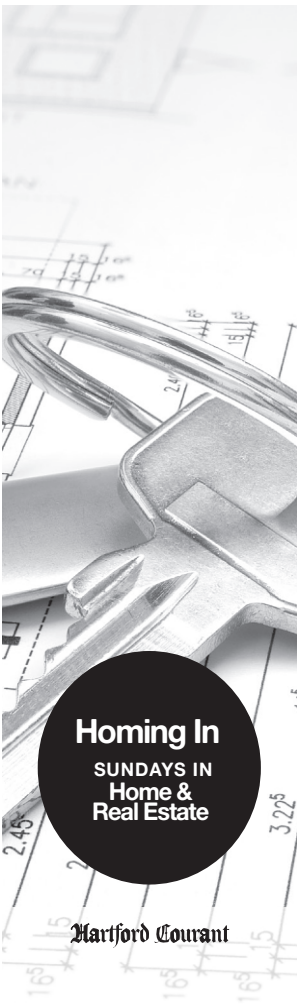
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During this webinar, Dr. Tam Cummings will explore signs of memory loss due to the normal aging process and signs of cognitive changes which could be an early warning sign of dementia.



Tam Cummings, Ph.D., Gerontologist  
Author, *Untangling Alzheimer's: The Guide for Families and Professionals*

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# OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION



Henry Akwatu recites the oath of allegiance while being sworn in as a U.S. citizen in September in the Manhattan borough of New York. **BARRY WILLIAMS/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**

## US would be happier with more people

By **Tyler Cowen**  
Bloomberg Opinion

It is one of the most worrisome economic statistics of a year that was full of them: In 2021, according to the Census Bureau, the U.S. population grew at the slowest rate in recorded history.

This poor performance was due to slowing immigration, low birth rates, and of course a high number of deaths from COVID. Total population grew by just 0.1%, or 392,665. Even measured in absolute terms, that increase is smaller than during the confluence of World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic.

Inflation and unemployment rates get a lot of attention, justifiably. But this macroeconomic news ought to be of at least equal concern. That's because — in economies as well as careers — what's important is not only the level of achievement but also the momentum. The goal is to have a series of ascending successes pushing you toward successively stronger positions.

For all its flaws, the United States is a marvelous collection of invented and evolved institutions. It took a lot of work to get here. At the margin, it costs rela-

tively little to allow more people to enjoy and benefit from America's Constitution, its favorable business environment and its nuclear umbrella. In the terminology of economics, the U.S. is a public good. Allowing more people in the country is like allowing more people to fill the empty seats in a theater for an excellent performance: Why not?

One simple implication is that the more patriotic you are, the more you ought to believe in a large and growing population. Most of America's founders certainly had that expectation.

Alternately, you might think there is nothing special about American institutions, as many a cynic has argued, and be indifferent about the size of its population. But to arrive at that conclusion, you have to deny there is significant value in the basic American framework.

A growing population also brings practical advantages. Consider the year's debate over the effect of stimulus on inflation. It doesn't seem, with a 6.8% inflation rate, that America quite got the balance right. With a significantly growing population, macroeconomic policy is much easier. The growing demands of an increasing number

of workers and consumers is itself a form of economic stimulus. But these demands are not in general inflationary, because they are offset by more work and higher output. Those boosts in supply will tend to offset inflationary pressures, and they also will maintain economic growth. A significantly growing population is a kind of macroeconomic free lunch.

More anecdotally, have you ever visited a city and felt a sense of stagnation and decline? For me, that feeling is more common in a city that is losing residents rather than gaining them. There seem to be fewer and less diverse restaurants, theaters, even street musicians.

In contrast, the most exciting states, cities and neighborhoods have lots of new venues and new people. Over the last decade the three fastest growing states, in percentage terms, are Utah, Idaho and Texas. I've recently visited the latter two and felt a palpable sense of excitement and ambition.

The relationship between population and dynamism holds at the national level as well, though it is harder to see because declines are not always so concentrated in a single geographic locale. But a coun-

try's mood cannot help but be affected by how many people it has and their ability to make unique contributions to society.

America's population is not declining right now, but it is not doing much better than holding steady. That brings its own mood of stasis and complacency. And let me be so bold as to suggest that, more than most countries, America is highly dependent on its own sense of optimism and growth. Otherwise, how is it to remain a top innovator? How will it pay off all its debts?

The most common argument against a growing population is that it harms the environment. But any potential solutions to environmental problems involve innovation, and more people means more potential innovators. It is the growing, dynamic societies that are most likely to improve green energy.

Yes, America is in a funk, and low population growth is both a cause and symptom. But this crisis need not be permanent — and one way to solve it is simply to make and bring in more happy people.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.*

## President's nominations bring diversity to courts

By **David Lat**  
Los Angeles Times

What will historians say Joe Biden and Donald Trump had in common? Their greatest presidential legacy might end up being how they shaped the federal judiciary.

Despite failures on other fronts, Trump appointed more than 200 judges, including three Supreme Court justices — who might soon vote to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, a long-standing goal of the conservative legal movement. With a Trump-like approval rating of 42%, President Biden finds himself in choppy waters. But on Dec. 18, Biden witnessed confirmation of his 40th federal judge — the highest number in a first year since President Ronald Reagan.

And it's not just numbers. Biden and the officials in his administration who pick judges, including White House counsel Dana Remus and chief of staff Ron Klain, are being smart and strategic. Instead of following the Obama administration's approach, which didn't win many confirmations, the Biden administration is taking a page from the Trump playbook by moving forward aggressively on nominations — and using the process to advance political and policy interests.

First, Biden is prioritizing diversity: Around 80% of Biden's confirmed nominees so far have been women, and 65% have been people of color. Diversity strengthens the judiciary because diverse perspectives enhance decision-making. Diverse appointees also help Biden and the Democratic Party, boosting support and enthusiasm among two key constituencies: women and minorities (some of whom have shifted rightward recently).

There's still room for more progress. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund recently noted that Biden's six nominees this year to the Central District of California have included only one Latino, for a district whose popu-

lation is now 46% Latino and is projected to be more so during the decades-long tenures of 2021 nominees. LGBTQ representation also lags behind in California. But when it comes to diverse judicial nominees, Biden is still far ahead of Trump, whose appointees were 84% white and 76% male.

Second, just as Trump chose extremely conservative nominees, Biden is selecting extremely liberal nominees. Lacking an organization as influential as the Federalist Society to verify ideological bona fides, his administration has shrewdly found professional proxies for progressive politics, turning to fields whose practitioners tend to be very liberal: public defenders, public-interest lawyers and attorneys representing labor unions. It's too early to say anything definitive, but I predict Biden's judges will be the most liberal since President Jimmy Carter's.

Finally, and strategically, Biden is emphasizing youth. As George Washington University law professor John Collins Jr. writes in a paper analyzing Biden's nominees, "President Biden's first-year circuit judge appointees suggest that Democrats are finally taking age as seriously as Republicans. ... At [around 48] years old, the average age of his first-year appointees is eight years younger than the circuit judges confirmed in President Obama's first year." This relative youth matters because, thanks to life tenure, young judges serve for longer — so even seemingly small differences in age can result in big differences in legal influence over time.

So the Biden administration's selection of young, liberal judges is good for the administration and the Democratic Party. Is it good for the judiciary?

There is — or should be — a difference between law and politics. The law should not be, to paraphrase Carl von Clausewitz's comment about war, the continuation of politics by other means. Instead, judges should try their best to apply the law to the



White House chief of staff Ron Klain, left, is one of the people in President Joe Biden's administration being smart and strategic in judicial selections. **MARK WILSON/GETTY 2014**

facts of the cases before them, as objectively as possible. A judge's goal should be to dispense justice under the law, not to advance an ideological agenda. Unfortunately, judges on both the right and left have too often treated the law as a vehicle for partisan politics. The judge-picking process might bear some of the blame.

It might be better for the judiciary for Biden — and all presidents, for that matter — to focus relatively little on youth and ideology.

This was essentially the Obama administration's approach, partly because it was Obama's own centrist inclination, and partly because, back when the filibuster was in effect, confirming judges who were too far from the center was impossible.

To prevent further politicization (if that's even possible), we might want to consider structural changes to the nomination process for future administrations.

First, we could bring back the filibuster for judicial nominees, eliminated for lower-court judges in 2013 (when Democrats controlled the Senate) and Supreme Court justices in 2017 (when Republicans controlled the Senate). When the filibuster was in effect, judicial nominees effec-

tively needed 60 votes for confirmation. This ensured that any successful nominee would have at least some votes from the other party, making it difficult to appoint extreme or unqualified judges. (Of course, bringing back the filibuster would also require a return to senators voting for judicial nominees of the other party as long as they're qualified, ideological disagreements notwithstanding — which is, admittedly, a far cry from today's party-line votes on clearly qualified candidates.)

Second, we could consider for lower-court judges something currently being discussed extensively for Supreme Court justices: term limits. If judges served for, say, 18 years rather than life, the parties would face less pressure to put forward the youngest and most ideological nominees, as the current system incentivizes. But realistically speaking, nothing will happen any time soon to change the selection strategies.

President Biden, I have a perfect pick for you: my 4-year-old. He's young, smart, diverse — and very, very opinionated.

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Notice Of Democratic Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Granby, Connecticut. Pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party and State Election Laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 10th 2022 at 7:15 pm in the East Granby Library large meeting room, 24 Center St. East Granby, Connecticut to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at East Granby, Connecticut, on the 27th Day of December, 2021.

Michael S. Malloy / Chairman  
12/30/21 7117712

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Connecticut

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Farmington, Connecticut. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 6:30 pm at the Farmington Community and Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut 06085 to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee, and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Farmington, Connecticut on the 27th day of December, 2021.

Democratic Town Committee of Farmington  
Michael Daly, Chairperson  
12/30/2021 7117807

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Barkhamsted, Connecticut. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: January 5, 2022, at 7:00pm, at Barkhamsted Town Garage 33 New Hartford Rd, Barkhamsted CT to elect town committee members and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Barkhamsted, Connecticut, on the December 29, 2021.

Democratic Town Committee of Barkhamsted  
Matthew J. Kelly  
Chairperson  
12/30/2021 7117756

Legal Notice – West Hartford Republican Town Committee Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of all districts in the Town of West Hartford on Monday, January 10, 2022 at The West Hartford Town Hall, 4th Floor, Room 400 at 7:00pm ET; this applies to all West Hartford districts, (districts 1 – 9) to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee. 12/29/21-1/1/22, 1/3, 4/22 7116097

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: January 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM, at Eno Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Simsbury, Connecticut, on the 28th of December 2021

Democratic Town Committee of Simsbury  
Lori Fernand  
Chairperson  
12/30/2021 7117824

Steve Dale's  
PET WORLD  
Sundays in Smarter Living

Liquor Notices

**LIQUOR PERMIT  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

This is to give notice that I, **BINGHUI YANG, 26 RED BUSH LN MILFORD, CT 06461-2739**, Have filed an application placarded **12/27/2021** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **71 WILLIAM SHORTY CAMPBELL ST HARTFORD CT 06106-3401**. The business will be owned by CAJUN RESTAURANT HARTFORD LLC. Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment Objections must be filed by: 02-07-2022.

**12/27/2021  
BINGHUI YANG  
12/30, 1/6/2022 7117708**

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Bristol**  
James A. Gingras  
Barbara P. Kasabucki
- Burlington**  
Elizabeth Witkowski
- East Hartford**  
Katherine Elliott
- Enfield**  
Marie S. Miller  
Luigi J. J. Secondo
- Hartford**  
Maria M. Lopes  
Marie S. Miller  
Alfred Narcisse  
Marilyn Roessler
- Manchester**  
Carlos G. Benavides
- New Britain**  
Anthony Cistulli  
James A. Gingras  
Helen Verrier
- Newington**  
Ronald Poulin  
Helen Verrier
- Other Towns in CT**  
Anthony Cistulli  
Christine A. Denette  
Charles S. Gay

- Out of State**  
Luigi J. J. Secondo
- Plainville**  
Elizabeth Witkowski
- Rocky Hill**  
Maria Coelho
- South Windsor**  
Salvatore J. Carilli, Jr.
- Southington**  
Carol E. Bennett  
Charles S. Gay  
Regina Wolak
- Stafford Springs**  
Christine A. Denette
- Vernon**  
Salvatore J. Carilli, Jr.  
Joseph G. Tarvano
- West Hartford**  
Maria Coelho  
Anthony Riccio, Sr.  
Marilyn Roessler
- Wethersfield**  
Anthony Riccio, Sr.

\* Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Benavides, Carlos G., MD



Carlos Roberto Gonzalo Andres Benavides, MD, in classic form, chose Christmas Day to cross over, back to God. He was born June 16, 1934 into the arms of Elena Spikula Benavides and Jaime Benavides, MD of Laurelton, NY. He spent his childhood in NY and Costa Rica, walking uphill to school both ways. When he was 14 he drove with his mother and sister, Nena, across the country and boarded a ship to join his father in Japan. There he graduated High School as Valedictorian in his class of one. He received his BS from the University of Michigan and went on to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. While completing his internship he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Watts. After serving 3 years as a lieutenant/physician in the Navy, he married Betty in 1964, whisking her away from the wedding in a helicopter. They returned to NYC where he completed his residencies at Lenox Hill Hospital and the NY Eye & Ear Infirmary. The family moved to Glastonbury, CT in 1971 and he began practicing as an ENT in Manchester “stomping out disease and suffering” until his 80th birthday. He may have been behind schedule every day in the office, but he practiced old-school medicine, listening and caring deeply for all he treated no matter how long it took. He ran 44 Manchester Road Races and 4 marathons. We will miss him dearly. He is survived by his wife Betty and his children Caroline & Lincoln Woodard of Glastonbury, Elizabeth & Jeffrey LoVetere of Colchester, Maria Benavides & Will Sharp of Bend, OR, and Rob & Becca Benavides of West Hartford. He was also the best Bubba to his 10 grandchildren: Elena, Ben, Anna, Shawn, Brayden, Ryan, Ethan, Sonora, Taylor and Mason. A Celebration of Life is planned for early Spring. In lieu of flowers, please send scholarship contributions to the MCC Foundation. For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com)

MULRYAN FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

Elliott, Katherine



Katherine (Kathy) Farris Elliott, 88, of East Hartford, CT and Dover-Foxcroft, ME, passed away at Capitol City Manor in Augusta on Thursday, December 16, 2021. She was born in Bridgton on December 12, 1933 to Margaret (Sawtelle) and Raymond Hilton, later to be adopted by Hollis B. Farris. She graduated from Bridgton High School.

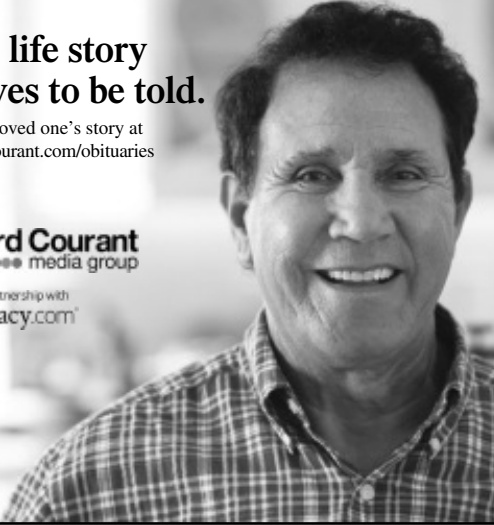
She married Lawrence (Larry) Elliott on June 19, 1952. They moved to East Hartford, CT and she started working at Travelers Insurance with Avis Ford. Ralph Ford worked with Larry at Grossman’s Lumber. The Ford’s became lifelong friends of theirs. While she worked at Food Mart, Kathy was instrumental in training clerks to use scanners. When the concept was introduced to her, she could not believe all food companies would agree to put a code on all the items sold in a grocery store, but the rest is history. After she retired, she enjoyed attending Food Mart reunions as well as reunions with classmates of Bridgton High School. She kept in touch with many friends, colleagues and classmates. Kathy enjoyed traveling to see many sites with her sister, Barbara Coffin. She was a member of Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church, First Congregational Church of East Hartford and First Congregational Church of Bridgton. Kathy moved back to Maine to stay with her niece, Donna Coffin and while she was able to, enjoyed going to many bingo games in the area. She also loved giving treats to Monty the cat and Raymond the dog. Kathy is survived by her son Mark Elliott of East Hartford, CT; nieces Donna Coffin of Dover-Foxcroft, ME, Bonnie Coffin and Randy Bertrand of Dover, NH, Darlene Elliott Thomas of Oxford, ME; nephew David Coffin of Dover-Foxcroft, ME. She is predeceased by her husband Larry Elliott; sister Barbara Hilton Farris Coffin; brother-in-laws Paul and Gordon Elliott and Vaughn Coffin. A celebration of life will be held in Bridgton in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Maine Alzheimer’s Association or Maine Lung Association. Arrangements are under the care of Chandler Funeral Home, 8 Elm Street, Bridgton. Online condolences may be shared with her family at [www.chandlerfunerals.com](http://www.chandlerfunerals.com)

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

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OBITUARIES

Coelho, Maria



Maria Esmeralda Coelho, 91, of West Hartford, widow of Jose Da Costa, passed away peacefully Sunday, December 26, 2021. Born March 5, 1930 in Ponta Delgada São Miguel Portugal she was the daughter of Sarafin and Cesaltina Coelho. Maria will be missed by her children, Jose Maria Costa (Alda) of Somerset MA, Maria Fatima Ferreira of Hartford CT, Maria Eduarda Costa of West Hartford CT, Eduardo Jorge Costa (Ada) of Newington CT, Maria Cidália Vasconcelos Antonio João of Fall River MA, Duarte Costa (Lucia) of Rocky Hill CT, and Carlos Alberto Costa (Estrela) of Manchester CT. Her 16 Grandchildren, 22 Great Grandchildren, and several Nieces and Nephews. She was predeceased by her sons Jorge and Roberto Costa and her daughter Helena Maria Augusto. Graveside Funeral Service will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 11:30 am at West Meadow Cemetery, 679 Willard Ave, Newington. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc. To send online condolences to the family, please visit [www.ahernfuneralhome.com](http://www.ahernfuneralhome.com).

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

Cistulli, Anthony



Anthony Cistulli, 57, of New Hartford, husband of Melissa Cistulli, passed away on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021 at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington. Born in New Britain, he was a long time New Britain resident before moving to New Hartford six years ago. Anthony was employed as a grocery manager at Stop and Shop, most recently working at the Pine St. Bristol location. He was a member of St. Joachim Parish, St. Ann Church and the Run 169 Towns Society. Surviving are his wife, Melissa (Cruikshank) Cistulli; a daughter, Maria Cistulli; a step-daughter that resided with him, MacKenzie Seymour; his parents, Jerry and Lucy Cistulli; three additional step children, Alex Steele, Julia Steele, and Nicholas Steele; two brothers, Peter Cistulli and his wife Pamela, John Cistulli and his wife Carla; nieces and nephews, Bryan Cistulli, Daniel Cistulli, Casey Cistulli (Madison), Kaitlyn DeGennaro (Steve), and Amber Cistulli; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11 AM at St. Joachim Parish, St. Ann Church. Entombment will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. Calling hours are Monday from 4-7 PM at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin/Porter’s, 111 Chamberlain Hwy, Kensington. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Fight Colorectal Cancer, or to the Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills, Inc. Please share a memory of Anthony with the family in the online guest book @ [www.ericksonhansenberlin.com](http://www.ericksonhansenberlin.com)

ERICKSON-HANSEN

Berlin

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

Denette, Christine A.

Christine A. Denette, 76, of Stafford Springs, CT, and formerly of East Hartford, CT, passed away on Monday, December 27, 2021 at Evergreen Health Care Center, Stafford Springs, CT. She was born in Holyoke, MA, raised in Springfield, MA, and was the daughter of the late Clarence and Edna (Driscoll) Denette. A graduate of Cathedral High School and A.I.C. College, she earned advance degrees from UCONN. Chris often said "Teaching is my joy and musicals are my passion". Her joyful career covered 38 years as a teacher of English at Stafford High School and 30 years as director of plays and musicals. It is with joy and gratitude that we acknowledge the love, generosity, and kindness that she shared with family, friends, and students. She is survived by her partner and best friend, Ellen Anderson, and her family; brother, Richard Denette and his wife Colette of Ludlow, MA; and many nieces and nephews and their families. She also leaves special friends, Kathy Bachiochi, Kathy Witkowski, Marilyn Morhardt, Janyce Wininger, Holly Coppinger, Peggy and John Marchetti, and Andy and Deb Anderson. She was predeceased by her sister, Cathy Paul. A time for friends, relatives, colleagues, and former students to gather and celebrate Chris's life will be held at a later date to be announced. Memorial donations may be made to the Stafford High School Music and Drama Boosters, 145 Orcuttville Rd., Stafford Springs, CT 06076. Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., Stafford Springs, CT, has care of the arrangements. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: [www.introvignefuneralhome.com](http://www.introvignefuneralhome.com)

Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc.

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Gingras, James A.



James A. Gingras, 72, of Bristol, CT, died Monday, December 27, 2021 at Bristol Hospital. James was born in Plantsville, CT and was the son of the late Arthur and Anna (Sova) Gingras. He served his country honorable in the United States Army. James worked for many years as a programmer He was a member of the Masonic Free Mason. James leaves his wife Linda (Elia) Gingras and many friends and relatives. James was predeceased by his son James J. Gingras and his daughter Christine Gingras.

Funeral rites for James will be held Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. with the procession departing at 10:00 a.m. from the Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Ave., New Britain, CT followed by a Liturgy of Christian burial at 11 a.m. at Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church, 120 Cabot St., New Britain, CT. Burial with full military honors rendered the United States Army will be in St. Thomas Assyrian Cemetery, Barbour Rd., New Britain, CT. The American flag will be presented to James' wife, Linda. Relatives and friends may call at the Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, Monday January 3, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. To extend condolences to the Gingras family or to share a memory of James, please visit [SHAKERFUNERALHOME.COM](http://SHAKERFUNERALHOME.COM)

Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, LLC

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

Gay, Charles S.



Charles Gay passed away from heart failure and COVID-19 on December 27th 2021. He grew up in Wallingford and attended local schools and was a graduate of Lyman Hall High School. While attending St. Lawrence University, he majored in English, with minors in history and psychology. Having taken ROTC courses throughout college, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve upon graduation. Later that year, he was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia for a nine-week Signal Officer Basic Course, and then spent two years' active duty stationed in Okinawa. After returning home he was employed by Aetna Life Insurance Company for over twenty years. The family moved to Southington in 1976. After leaving Aetna, he was employed by the state of Connecticut Judicial Branch, serving in the clerk's office of Hartford Superior Civil Court, retiring in 2009. Surviving him are his son Michael of Temecula, California and his wife Nancy and his grandchildren Ethan and Jacob and a daughter, Deborah Holyst and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter Susan and by his wife Jean Egan Gay and his older brothers Roger and David Gay. A memorial service and calling hours will be held on Saturday, January 22nd 2022 from 11 AM to 1 PM at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, 411 So. Main St., New Britain. Please share a memory of Charles with the family in the online guest book @ [www.ericksonhansen.com](http://www.ericksonhansen.com)

ERICKSON-HANSEN

New Britain

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Lopes, Maria M



Maria Madalena Lopes, 84, of Hartford, beloved wife of the late Manuel J. Lopes, passed away on the bitter-sweet night of Christmas eve and wedding anniversary, Friday, December 24, 2021, at St. Francis Hospital, in Hartford. She was born in Gouveia, Portugal, daughter of the late Antonio and Rosa (Cavacas) Belino. Maria immigrated to the United States in the late sixties with her husband, to follow an American dream which she found in Hartford, CT. Here she was able to continue in her Catholic faith and became a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Church where she also worked, for over 25 years. The children of the Church's Child Day Care Center were one of her greatest joys in life. She was thoughtful, giving and kind. In her caring and tender ways, she touched many families within the Portuguese community. Her love of music, dancing and good food were fulfilled in both the OLF Church and Portuguese Club of Hartford's festivals and dinners. She and the love of her life husband, "Manny" also enjoyed many a weekend trap/skeet & clay shooting, as members of the Andover Sportsman Club, winning tournaments and becoming a true trend setter for her time. She was unique, eccentric and funny. In retirement, she joined various local senior centers where long time friendships were quickly made over games of fun and bingo. Maria is survived by what she always said were her "3 reasons for living": her two daughters; Isabel C. Lopes and husband Michael Mastrangelo of Pomfret, CT and Susana M. Lopes of Wethersfield and the light of her life grandson, Ezekiel B. Ortiz. She also leaves a sister, Palmira B. Cardoso, a brother Antonio Belino, a brother in law, Ligio T. Coelho, several nephews, nieces, cousins, good neighbors and thoughtful friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 50 Kane St. Hartford, CT 06106. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Visiting hours will be held on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 prior to the mass, at 9:00 to 10:30 AM, at the Dillon Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpke. Wethersfield, CT 06109. To share a memory with the family, please visit [www.dillonbaxter.com](http://www.dillonbaxter.com)



Dillon-Baxter FUNERAL HOME

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Miller, Marie S (St. Martin)



Marie "Rona" Miller who was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Miller, passed away at St. Francis Hospital on Monday December 28, 2021, at the age of 86. Rona resided in Windsor Locks with her daughter and son in law Marie and Kenny Alford, who along with their two daughters Kaitlynn and Megan provided care and a loving home.

Rona's greatest joy was cooking and spending time with her family. Rona is survived by her son Thomas Miller and daughters Patricia Ruel, Deborah Miller, Brenda Friedrich and Judy Ziemnicki. Her 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Predeceased by her granddaughter Michelle. Rona will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. A special thank you for her tireless dedication to her daughter Marie who was also her best friend. A Memorial Mass Celebrating Rona's life will be held at a later date.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

Narcisse, Alfred



Alfred Narcisse, 83, of Windsor, CT gained his heavenly wings on Saturday, December 25, 2021. Alfred was born on March 6, 1938 to the late Ceasar and Eunice Narcisse in New Iberia, LA. A celebration of Alfred's life will take place on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 11:00am with a calling hour from 10:00am – 11:00am at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (A

Division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services), 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Interment will be held at Elmwood Cemetery with Military Honors, at 18 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026. To leave a message of comfort for the Narcisse family and view the full obituary please visit, [www.hkhfuneralservices.com](http://www.hkhfuneralservices.com)

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OBITUARIES

Poulin, Ronald



Ronald Poulin, 66, of Newington, passed away on Saturday, December 25th 2021 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford, he was the son of Jeannine (Tardiff) and the late Gerard Poulin. Ron graduated from Central Connecticut State University and worked as an accountant for the State of CT until his retirement. He truly loved being retired, taking the time to immerse himself in the things he enjoyed. Ron was an avid reader and took pleasure in following and discussing his favorite TV shows. He loved playing board and card games with family and friends and also enjoyed playing computer games and made many friends online. He was a huge fan of the New York Giants and loved managing his fantasy football teams. Ron took pleasure in hiking and being outdoors, was very fond of animals, and had many pets of his own. Ron was a 7th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do qualifying him as a Grandmaster. He was also a 2nd degree black belt in Hapkido. He was especially proud to instruct and teach children and adults the skills he possessed. Ron loved trying different ethnic foods and would fondly remember his favorite vacations to Hawaii and Korea. In addition to his loving mother Jeannine, he leaves his sisters; Lynne Smith, Donna Ericson and her husband Jeffrey; and his brother John Poulin and his wife Joan, all of Newington. He also leaves his beloved nieces and nephews; Erica, Melissa, Michael, Patrick, Derek, Kathleen, Bryan and Brooke and his great niece and nephew; Savannah and Salvatore. In lieu of funeral services, memorial donations in Ronald's name may be directed to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate3.cancer.org> or to the ASPCA at <https://secure.aspc.org>. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial is serving the family. To share a memory with his family, please visit us at [www.duksa.net](http://www.duksa.net).



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Riccio, Sr., Anthony



Anthony Riccio Sr., 84, beloved husband of 49 years to the late Beverly (Fitzsimmons) Riccio, passed away peacefully at the Hebrew Home in West Hartford on Thursday, December 16th surrounded by his family. Anthony was born in Hartford on September 7, 1937 to the late Joseph Riccio and Rose (Puntillo) Riccio and was a lifelong resident of Wethersfield. A dedicated educator, he taught in the Hartford school system for more than 30 years. Anthony was a 50 year communicant of Corpus Christi Church, and he also enjoyed playing the organ for services at St. Peter's Church in Hartford over 10 years. A devoted family man, Anthony is survived by his daughter, Annemarie Hutchinson of Lakewood, Ohio, his sons, James and his wife Jennifer of Glastonbury and Anthony Jr. and his wife Cynthia of Wethersfield. He is also survived by his six grandchildren: Andrea Riccio Jackie of Plainville, Maria Petty and her husband Arcie of Cleveland, Ohio, Maryellen Riccio of Boston, Massachusetts, Josef Riccio of Rocky Hill, Anthony Riccio, III of Wethersfield and Nicholas Riccio of Wethersfield, as well as three great-grandchildren, Kayla, Russell and William. In addition to his wife and parents, Anthony was predeceased by his infant son Joseph in 1962 and his son Michael in 2013. The family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, January 3rd, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. Masks are requested. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 3rd, at Christ the King Parish (Corpus Christi Church), 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. Burial to follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russel Road, Newington, CT 60111. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit [www.desopofuneralchapel.com](http://www.desopofuneralchapel.com).



D'Esopo  
Funeral Chapel

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Roessler, Marilyn



On Monday, December 13, 2021, Marilyn Joyce Roessler of Kennett Square PA and Ocala FL passed away at age 86. She was a loving wife, mother and sister, and a cherished grandmother. Marilyn was born on June 25, 1935 in Burlington, Iowa to Dr. Carl and Dorothea Tambert. She attended Carthage College and received a degree in education, later earning a master's degree in education from Rider University. In 1956 she married H Carl Roessler, and they spent the early years of their marriage in California before moving to Princeton Junction, NJ. Marilyn was a beloved teacher for 44 years, 40 of those in the West Windsor Plainsboro School District in New Jersey. In her retirement, Marilyn developed a love of painting and print-making and split her time between Kennett Square PA and Ocala FL. She is survived by her loving spouse Carl, her two sons, Curt and Eric, her three grandchildren, Kathryn, Ian and Allison, and her sister Marcia Cox. Another sister, Janeene (Tambert) Conter preceded her in death. A memorial service will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 109 East Doe Run Road, Unionville, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children's Javits-Frasier Scholarship fund, which provides professional development training for Title I teachers and counselors.

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Visit the obituary section on [courant.com](http://courant.com) to share memories of loved ones.

Tarvano, Joseph Genarino



Joseph Genarino Tarvano, 73, of Vernon, husband of the late Pamela (Ring) Tarvano, passed away on Friday, December 24, 2021 at Glastonbury Healthcare Center. Born in Hartford, the son of the late Genarino and Dorothy (DeMay) Tarvano, he grew up and was a longtime resident of Vernon. Joseph was a graduate of Rockville High School, and he proudly served his country in the U. S. Air Force. He worked at CREC and several group homes in the area helping people. In his younger years, he was very athletic. Joseph was a huge New York Yankee fan, and he was a slow pitch softball pitcher. He enjoyed bowling leagues, playing cards and trips to the casino. He is survived by his children, Kristy McClure of Vernon, and Jason Hills-Nevin; three grandchildren, Dylan, Aidan and McKenna; his longtime friend and companion, Bonnie Jones-Riker of Vernon; his step mother, Marion Kahrmann of Windsor; two step sisters, Mary Whipple of Windsor, and Laurel Bergen of Granville, MA; a step brother, William Kahrmann of Florence, MA, several nieces and nephews, and his longtime best friends, Mike and Krista Ryan of Manchester. Joseph's family would like to thank all the staff at Glastonbury Health Care Center and Athena Hospice for the wonderful care that he received, and he really enjoyed his visits with Keysha Fontaine. His family will receive friends for calling hours on Monday, January 3, 2022 from 4 – 6 p.m. followed by a funeral service beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. Burial will be held at a later date and time to be announced. For online condolences and guest book, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com)



CARMON  
Community Funeral Homes

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Verrier, Helen



Helen G. Verrier, 95, of Newington and formerly of New Britain passed away on December 23, 2021. Helen was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Walter S. Verrier. Helen was a sweet and loving woman who always had a kind word to share with everyone she met. Her favorite pastime was knitting and crocheting, creating many beautiful pieces. She enjoyed art, music and loved to read. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Rosemary and Steven Karpinski of Manchester, grandchildren Michael Albaitis of Newington, Samantha Albaitis of New Britain, sister-in-law Beatrice Margelot of Pennsylvania as well as her godson Robert Johnson of Colorado and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her parents Michael and Mary (Wojculewicz) Gabrynowicz, her brothers, Richard, Edward and John. There are no calling hours. Private burial will be at the convenience of the family. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington is serving the family. To share a memory with Helen's family, please visit us at [www.duksa.net](http://www.duksa.net)



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Witkowski, Elizabeth



Elizabeth Mae Witkowski, 80, of Burlington, beloved wife of Casimir Witkowski passed away peacefully December 26, 2021. Born in Meriden CT, June 27, 1941 the daughter of Wesley and Etta (Mitchell) Root. Betty worked at Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington in the cafeteria for many years. Besides her husband, Betty leaves her daughter Brenda and her husband Nick Lapierre of Burlington, and her son Edward Witkowski of Colorado, her sisters Rose Davis of Plainville, CT, and Jacqueline Pechot of New Britain, CT. She is also survived by her four beloved grandchildren, Breanna Witkowski, Samantha, Jamie, and Olivia Lapierre. Friends may call at the Ahern Funeral Home 111 Main St, Rt 4, Unionville on Sunday, January 2nd, 2022 from 1-3 pm. A prayer service will be held in the Funeral Home at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Elizabeth's name to the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, P.O. Box 1285 Burlington, CT 06013 To send online condolences to the family, please visit [www.ahernfuneralhome.com](http://www.ahernfuneralhome.com)

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of  
JOHN C 'JACK' BROADWELL



01/05/36 12/30/19



It's been 2 long years since Heaven gained our Angel. We are missing you each time we hear your name. We've cried many tears and our hearts are Broken just the same. We miss our times together and nothing fills the emptiness now you are no longer here. We have so many precious moments to last our whole lives through. Each reminds us of how much we learned from you and how much we are missing you. LOVE your wife & sons. Josie , Mark , Brian and Gary

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Matthew Curtin, who learned he had prostate cancer in 2019, is seen Dec. 2 with Dr. Channa Amarasekera at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. YOUNGRAE KIM/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Steve Kenny  
The New York Times

CHICAGO — Matthew Curtin learned he had prostate cancer after a routine physical examination in October 2019, when test results indicated there was a problem. A biopsy confirmed the news, and doctors told him that surgery to remove his prostate was the best option.

The surgery went well, and, two years later, there is no indication that the cancer has returned. But for Curtin, 66, diagnosis and surgery were only the beginning of a “clinical and psychological and emotional adventure” — one he felt that many urologists were not equipped to handle, because he was gay and most doctors and their patients were not.

Post-treatment symptoms are similar for all prostate cancer patients, including urinary incontinence, erectile dysfunction, diminished libido and loss of ejaculate. But researchers are finding that those changes may echo through the lives of gay and bisexual men in unexpected, and sometimes more difficult, ways.

The obstacles can be physical and emotional, and may be reflected in patients’ relationships with their partners. And they may present a challenge to medical professionals more

# ‘A big unmet need’

Program focuses on gay, bisexual men with prostate cancer left grappling with aftermath of treatment in ways that are rarely appreciated by doctors

attuned to the relationship needs of straight men.

Curtin said he was about three months into treatment when he was struck that “there is a lot going on here — the emotional and psychological effect — that is not being treated.” His doctor’s first response, Curtin said, was, “My office isn’t prepared for this.”

Curtin’s search for a different approach led him to Dr. Channa Amarasekera, director of the Gay and Bisexual Men’s Urology Program at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago. The program, which began taking patients in August, is the first of its kind in the United States, and Amarasekera, who has focused his career on urologic care for gay and bisexual men and other sexual minorities, is the program’s first leader.

It is an emerging field of study driven in part by the increasing number of prostate cancer patients who identify as gay or bisexual. “Historically, the

medical system has sort of operated in a don’t-ask-don’t-tell environment, and that’s been problematic,” Amarasekera said. “Fortunately, that’s changing. Patients are increasingly open about who there are.”

The gay and bisexual men in their 50s and 60s who are now entering the prime demographic for prostate cancer also lived through the worst of the AIDS epidemic. That experience has left many of them more experienced in dealing with the medical establishment — and more distrustful of it.

“It’s important now to reassure patients who came of age through that time that things are different, and they can expect better care,” Amarasekera said.

The problem, experts in the field say, is that the research about gay and bisexual men and prostate cancer is still woefully inadequate.

“Historically, most of the research on gay health was focused on HIV and

in young gay men, because that was the biggest killer,” said Simon Rosser, a professor of epidemiology and community health at the University of Minnesota, who led a 2017 study of gay and bisexual men with prostate cancer.

“It’s only now that as the AIDS generation grew older, and aged into health problems like prostate cancer, that specialists are starting to see gay patients,” Rosser said. “But they have not trained in sexual minorities and health care.”

Dr. Edward Schaeffer, chair of the urology department at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University and chief of urology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, said he sensed the importance of a new approach about three years ago.

“I felt it was a big unmet need,” said Schaeffer, whose work has focused mostly on the disparities among men with prostate cancer, particularly

between Black men and others. So he created the program with Amarasekera.

Many of the men Amarasekera sees at the program’s two clinics are unprepared to face yet another health crisis. Among them is a 59-year-old lawyer in Chicago who is HIV-positive and said he was not fully warned about how the removal of his prostate would affect his body.

“There is a wasting,” said the lawyer, who asked not to be quoted by name because not all of his relatives were aware of his HIV status. The health care system, he said, “marginalizes gay men, particularly when it comes to sexual health, and the prostate is so linked to sexual health in gay men. It’s a sexual organ, and it’s been removed.”

“A previous urologist simply said, ‘Go forward and enjoy your life, and bye,’” the lawyer said.

Gary Dowsett, emeritus professor at the Austra-

lian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in Melbourne, said such treatment, while not meant to be callous, is not uncommon. It’s just that many urologists don’t realize that the prostate is “kind of a male ‘G spot,’” and gay men more often are aware of it.

Schaeffer and Amarasekera said the information gathered through the Northwestern program would benefit urology as a whole. After all, straight men, too, often are distressed by the sexual consequences of treatment and feel that they were not adequately warned.

The Chicago lawyer said his experience with the program “goes a long way to address the mistrust that many gay men feel toward medical institutions.”

He is still together with the man he began dating right before his diagnosis, and they are planning a wedding. Sex remains a “tremendous pleasure,” he said.

That’s the outcome Amarasekera wants for all his patients.

“After treatment, many men with prostate cancer focus on the warmth in their relationships rather than the heat,” he said. “We’re here to say: ‘Yes, it’s important to pay attention to the warmth. But the heat isn’t over. We can still get you back.’”

## Muscle mass linked to hot flash severity in women

HealthDay News

Older women with muscle loss are less likely to have menopause-related hot flashes, a new study finds.

The loss of muscle mass and function (sarcopenia) is one of the most significant changes that occurs with age, and older women are at increased risk due to sex hormone changes after menopause. Other risk factors for sarcopenia include inactivity, lower

protein intake, changes in growth hormone levels and increased inflammation.

There’s a known link between age-linked loss of muscle and menopause, but the connection between sarcopenia and various menopause symptoms such as hot flashes has been less clear.

In this study of nearly 300 Korean women ages 40 to 65, researchers led by Dr. Hyuntae Park, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Korea

University’s College of Medicine in Seoul, investigated the association between body composition — including fat and muscle — and hot flashes and other menopause symptoms.

Park and colleagues found that hot flashes are less common in women with sarcopenia, according to the study recently published online in Menopause, the journal of the North American Menopause Society (NAMS).

The new findings are

“particularly important given the aging population and the links between sarcopenia in older women and decreased mobility, increased risk of falls and reduced health span, and quality of life,” Dr. Stephanie Faubion, NAMS medical director, said in a news release.

Older women with muscle loss are at an increased risk of reduced mobility, diminished quality of life, heart disease and fall-related injuries.



DREAMSTIME

Hot flashes are one of the most common menopause symptoms and are associated with several

chronic disorders, including obesity, insulin resistance, osteoporosis and heart disease.

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CELEBRITIES

White lucky to ‘feel so good at this age’

From news services

Betty White will turn 100 on Jan. 17 — and she’s looking forward to the big day with much joy.

In a new interview, the comedic actor and bonafide Hollywood star said she’s “so lucky to be in such good health and feel so good at this age.”

“It’s amazing,” she added about the upcoming centennial.

So what’s the key to longevity for the Emmy Award winner known for her roles on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” and “The Golden Girls”?

White said being “born a cockeyed optimist” is the key. “I got it from my mom, and that never changed,” she said in an exclusive interview with People Magazine for its Jan. 10 edition. “I always find the positive.”

As far her diet, “I try to avoid anything green,” the Oak Park, Illinois, native joked to People in an issue that hit newsstands Tuesday. “I think it’s working.”

A few of the star’s famous friends — including Carol Burnett, Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds — also share their experiences working with White in the cover story.

**Gorman writes end-of-year poem:** Amanda Gorman is ending her extraordinary year on a hopeful note.

The poet, 23, whose reading of her own “The Hill We Climb” at President Joe Biden’s January inauguration made her an international sensation, released a new work Wednesday to mark the end of 2021. “New Day’s Lyric” is a five-stanza, 48-line resolution with themes of struggle and healing known to admirers of “The Hill We Climb” and of her bestselling collection “Call Us What We Carry.”

When asked what



Actor Betty White said, “It’s amazing,” about her upcoming 100th birthday on Jan. 17. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY 2018

inspired “New Day’s Lyric,” Gorman said in an email she “wanted to write a lyric to honor the hardships, hurt, hope and healing of 2021 while also harkening the potential of 2022.”

“This is such a unique New Year’s Day, because even as we toast our glasses to the future, we still have our heads bowed for what has been lost,” she wrote. “I think one of the most important things the new year reminds us is of that old adage: This too shall pass. You can’t relive the same day twice — meaning every dawn is a new one, and every year an opportunity to step into the light.”

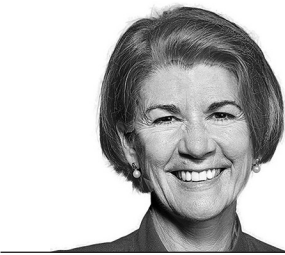
**Jackman tests positive:** Hugh Jackman has COVID-19, he announced Tuesday on social media. The actor was fully vaccinated and got his booster shot at the beginning of December.

“I just wanted you to hear from me that I tested positive this morning for COVID,” said the star of Broadway’s “The Music Man” in a brief video. “My symptoms are like a cold. I have a scratchy throat and a bit of a runny nose, but I’m fine.”

Jackman said he was going to do all he could to “get better, ASAP.”

After announcing shows were canceled through Saturday, “The Music Man” company tweeted that Jackman would be back onstage Jan. 6.

**Dec. 30 birthdays:** Actor Russ Tamblyn is 87. Singer Noel Paul Stookey is 84. Singer Patti Smith is 75. TV host Meredith Vieira is 68. Actor Sheryl Lee Ralph is 65. Actor Tracey Ullman is 62. TV host Sean Hannity is 60. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 50. Singer Tyrese is 43. Actor Eliza Dushku is 41. Singer Andra Day is 37. Singer Ellie Goulding is 35.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Husband’s lies are delaying confrontation

**Dear Amy:** My husband of many years, “Franklin,” has a strategy of lying to me in order to get his way or avoid confrontation.

Three examples, all this week:

■ We make an annual, very substantial contribution to an arts organization where he’s on the board.

When I reviewed this, he told me that most of the board members give this amount (if not more).

I then discovered that we give 20 times more than most of the other board members.

■ Franklin was planning a party. I have some social anxiety and asked him about the growing guest list.

He told me that the caterer had a minimum requirement of 20 people. I asked the caterer — no minimum.

■ One of Franklin’s brothers will be in our area for one night.

Franklin neglected to tell me that not only will his brother and wife be staying with us for a full week, but that other members of his family will also be staying with us for the week.

When I found out about the family invasion, Franklin’s response was he was looking for the right moment to tell me, in order to avoid an argument.

This has been going on for decades, including lies that I found out about 10 years later.

On his part, I get the feeling that he sees me as an impediment that he has to figure out ways of manipulating his way around.

Everything else in our relationship is pretty wonderful, but this is gnawing at me more and

more. Is there anything I can do?

— *Tired of Being Lied to*

**Dear Tired:** You are (somewhat kindly) seeing this as manipulation.

Manipulation is persuasion plus pressure.

Outright lying saves “Franklin” the trouble of trying to manipulate you.

And inviting family members to stay for days on end in your home without your consent is a flat-out power grab.

You don’t trust Franklin, but he also doesn’t trust you to react predictably to his various schemes.

Lying or hiding the truth from you until it is too late for you to have a say is cowardly. Because you two have an otherwise wonderful relationship, I sincerely believe you can work this out, especially with the help of a qualified counselor.

Mediation can show each of you how to communicate differently. You can practice truthful conversations where you resolve challenges and where you compromise.

**Dear Amy:** I’m in my 30s. Almost four months ago, I ended a very serious five-year relationship with the man I thought I would marry one day.

These last few months have been hard, but I firmly believe I am better off having left the relationship.

My question is: Is it too soon to move on and start dating again?

I have been in therapy and no longer cry regularly about the breakup.

I will probably always love this man, but I’m no longer in love with him.

I feel ready and excited to move on, but some have advised me to wait longer.

What do you think?

— *Ready*

**Dear Ready:** If you’re ready and excited, then Godspeed!

However, I think it’s wisest to approach this next period of your life as one where you continue to get to know yourself.

I hope you don’t set your goal to quickly find another partner, but to learn how to date, how to get to know new people and how to be a good communicator and a great listener. Apply all of these skills to your various friendships, too.

Dating involves exploration, discernment, communicating, coping with disappointment and — fun.

**Dear Amy:** “I’m not Cheap” was a self-described “minimalist” who didn’t know what to give a child who already had everything.

I loved your suggestion of giving “coupons” for experiences to share with this child.

I had an aunt who used to take me out — away from my siblings — and do fun things with me. We went to the ballet once (I felt so grown up!) and out to dinner afterward.

I’m sure she also gave me gifts, but honestly, I don’t remember any of them.

— *Grateful*

**Dear Grateful:** I had an aunt like that. And I’ve tried to be an aunt like that.

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TV REVIEW

‘Emily in Paris’ ultimate fantasy TV for those who like ‘Bachelor’

By Neal Justin

Minneapolis Star Tribune

The Golden Globes might have avoided scrutiny if it hadn’t made one glaring mistake: It slobbered over “Emily in Paris.”

According to a report from the Los Angeles Times, voters were flown into France and pampered on set. They subsequently gave two major nominations to the series, which was panned by many critics, including me.

That, along with the lack of Black representation in its membership, led to NBC dropping coverage of the 2022 award ceremonies and for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association to do a major overhaul.

But then something even weirder happened. The more prestigious Academy of Arts & Sciences granted the sitcom an Emmy nomination for outstanding comedy series. Did I miss something? No. But after watching the second season, now streaming on Netflix, I have a better understanding of why certain viewers fell in love.

For those who have avoided the show, a quick recap: Emily (Lily Collins) is a marketing executive who makes the temporary move to France in hopes of fattening up her resume and landing a promotion back home in Chicago. She winds up spending most of her time abroad wriggling out of one mess after another. It’s like Lucy Ricardo’s European vacation but without the physical stick.

“Ever since I moved to Paris, my life has been chaotic and dramatic and complicated,” Emily says in one of the new episodes.

For viewers who prefer “The Bachelor” to Marvel movies, this is the ultimate



Lily Collins in “Emily in Paris.” CAROLE BETHUEL/NETFLIX

in fantasy TV.

Emily gets to choose among three suitors: an aristocrat who can afford first-class accommodations for a weekend getaway in Saint-Tropez on the French Riviera, a gourmet chef and a hottie who looks like the dude from “Bridgerton.”

Her wardrobe, which boasts more colors than a bag of Skittles, wouldn’t fit into Carrie Bradshaw’s closet. Emily snags front-row seats at male fashion shows and both strip clubs. Workdays seem to revolve around martini lunches.

Her best friends are the daughter of one of China’s richest tycoons and the heir to a Champagne company. In a scene this season, one of those friends ends up singing “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend” aboard a yacht. In another, our hero tools by the Louvre in a Vespa. To make the trip even more luxurious, everyone around Emily seems perfectly willing to speak English.

If you’re not swooning, you’re not the audience for “Emily.” You’re also

not creator Darren Starr’s target audience. As he did with “Melrose Place” and “Sex and the City,” Starr has built a utopia for those who would rather go on high-end shopping sprees than fight alongside the Avengers. The Hollywood elite are not immune to this catnip.

But there are some fun twists in the new episodes. Kate Walsh (“Private Practice”) makes a great nemesis when she enters as an executive determined to shake up the French branch of her company. There’s also an amusing battle between fashion designers that could have been lifted from “America’s Next Top Model.”

Collins is seven kinds of adorable, although I can’t help wondering what a more adept comic actor like Zooey Deschanel would have done with the role.

But let the “Emily” fans have their fun. Let’s just not pretend the show is anything more than candy corn masquerading as a macaron.

**Where to watch:** Netflix

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** Remaining in a professional frame of mind, even if you don’t have any real work in front of you, is a good idea today. Pick out the proper path and follow it to a pot of gold. Just try to not run anyone over in your race to the finish!

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** You’ve got a bird’s-eye view of the world today. A very poignant or powerful message could come your way — this might completely alter how you perceive the world around you. Your sign is known to be somewhat stubborn, but try to give your opinions room to evolve.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** Today you could feel like a detective trying to unravel a tangled web. If there are any complicated matters in your life, this might be the perfect day to tackle them. You’ll likely be more adept than usual. Stand up for yourself — just not at the expense of someone you care about.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Don’t be shocked if someone says or does something that has a big impact on your day today. Someone you consider an equal or partner could decide to rock the boat. It should be all right if you’re on the same page about the matter, but if not, it could create some friction for you

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** It’s a good day to get serious about life and how you live it. If you’ve been putting your wellness on the back burner, you could receive a sharp reminder that this sort of thing has consequences — you can’t let things slide indefinitely! Start planning how you want to improve.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The planets are offering you the chance to show off today, but its important you don’t get carried away in the process. You might feel the need to put yourself front and center, even if other people aren’t quite giving you the space to do so. Don’t try and make the whole day about you.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Family relations might be a bit extreme at the moment. A combustible aspect occurring in your home could make it impossible for you to see eye-to-eye with someone who shares your living space. It’s one thing to make your point heard, but watch out for losing your temper.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Conversations take on a very serious tone today. This aspect could make your tongue razor sharp! While it’s good to say your piece and hold your ground, be careful you aren’t so forceful that it hurts anyone’s feelings. Be prepared to defend yourself as needed from any unfair accusations.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Money matters might be on your mind, or perhaps its what you can do with said money that occupies you today. Defend what you see as rightfully yours. If you feel you’ve been denied your just reward, that energy could bubble up today, but be careful.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You could say something that seems fine to you, but totally rubs someone else the wrong way at this time. It’s alright to be honest, but not if it means being unnecessarily rude or harsh. If someone hasn’t asked for constructive criticism, then you probably don’t need to supply it.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** It’s important to not force yourself in any one particular direction today, because there’s a good chance that you’re not going to have a perfect understanding of whats actually going on. Reserve any judgments for another day, as it’s too easy to miss the mark right now.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Issues in group dynamics could get blown out of all sense of proportion today. Someone, or perhaps quite a few people, might decide to assert their position — which may leave you and everyone else feeling like no one can get a word in edgewise. Try to make sure you’re helping make equal space for everyone.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

**On Dec. 30, 1813,** British troops burned Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812.

**In 1903,** about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened

Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

**In 1922,** Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving.

**In 1954,** Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first Black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award.

**In 1972,** the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

**In 1999,** George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who’d broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him.

**In 2015,** Bill Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home in 2004.

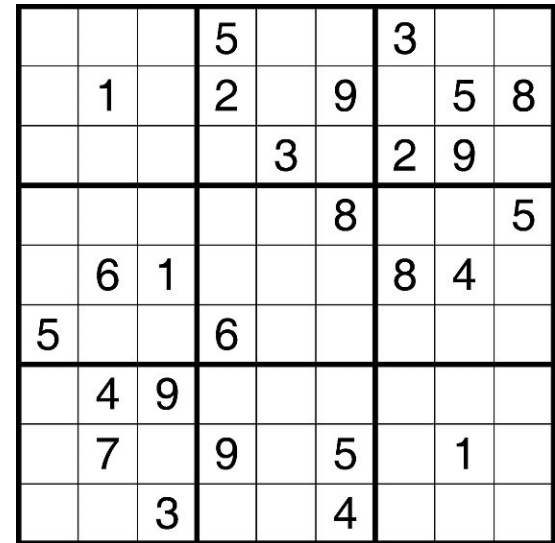
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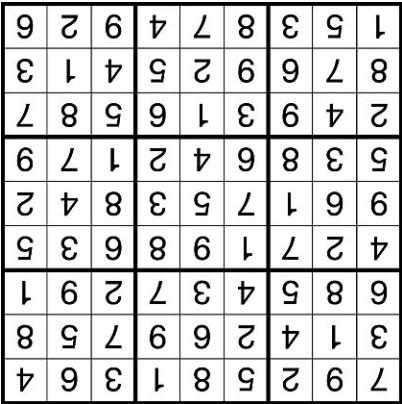
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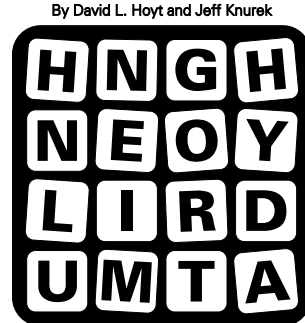
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](https://www.sudoku.org.uk).



BOGGLE



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE  
3 letters = 1 point  
4 letters = 2 points  
5 letters = 3 points  
6 letters = 4 points  
7 letters = 5 points  
8 letters = 6 points  
9 letters = 10 points  
10 letters = 15 points

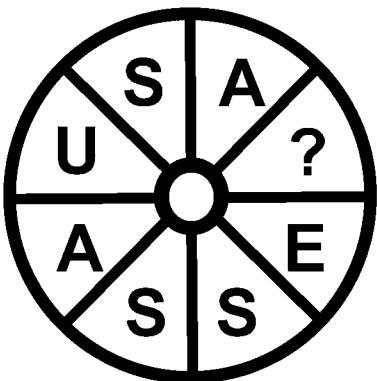
YOUR BOGGLE RATING  
1151+ = Champ  
101-150 = Expert  
61-100 = Pro  
31-60 = Gamer  
21-30 = Rookie  
11-20 = Amateur  
0-10 = Try again

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We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?  
Find AT LEAST FIVE GASES in the grid of letters.

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NEON RADON HELIUM HYDROGEN NITROGEN

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

SAVAGES

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: pool time

252

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



BLOCKS  
BOARD  
CHLORINE  
CLOCK  
COMPETITION  
COSTUME  
CRAWL  
DEEP  
DIVE  
EDGE  
FLAGS

FLOATING  
FREESTYLE  
GOGGLES  
HAT  
INDIVIDUAL  
JUDGE  
LANES  
LENGTH  
LIGHTS  
LINE  
MARKERS

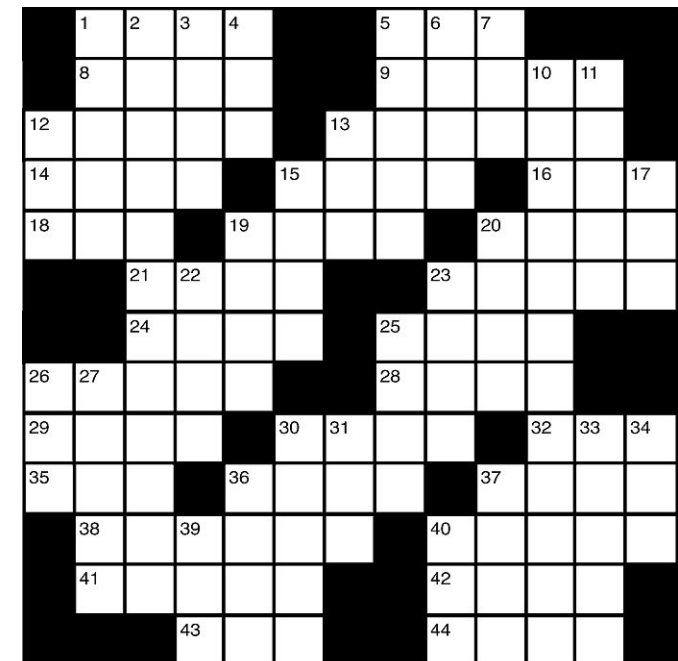
MEDLEY  
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OFFICIAL  
OVERARM  
PADDLE  
PIKE  
RACE  
RELAY  
SEAT  
SHALLOW  
SHOP

SLIDES  
SOMERSAULT  
SWIMSUIT  
TEAM  
TICKET  
TIMING  
TOWER  
TRAINER  
TURN  
WATER  
WIDTH

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/22/15

ACROSS

- 1 Abbott and Collyer  
5 "\_\_\_ Tree Hill"  
8 Baseball's Slaughter  
9 "American \_\_\_ Warrior"  
12 Soup server's implement  
13 Lavin and Ronstadt  
14 "How \_\_\_ Your Mother"  
15 "The Amazing \_\_\_"  
16 Expert accountant, for short  
18 Suffix for command or auction  
19 Betty White's role on "The Golden Girls"  
20 Enjoys a winter sport  
21 "The A-\_\_\_"  
23 Actress Susan  
24 Traditional circle dance at a Bar Mitzvah  
25 Jethro Bodine's portrayer  
26 "CSI: Crime \_\_\_ Investigation"  
28 Actress Kudrow of "Friends"  
29 Actor George \_\_\_  
30 "Family \_\_\_"  
32 "\_\_\_ Wants to Be a Millionaire"  
35 Long \_\_\_; in the distant past  
36 Actor Christian \_\_\_

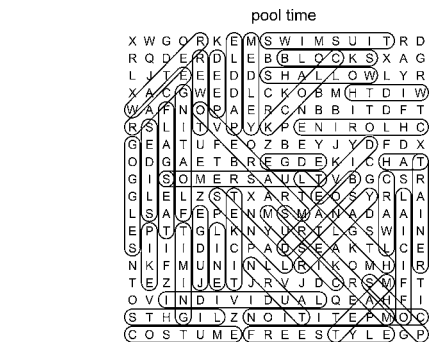


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11/22/15

DOWN

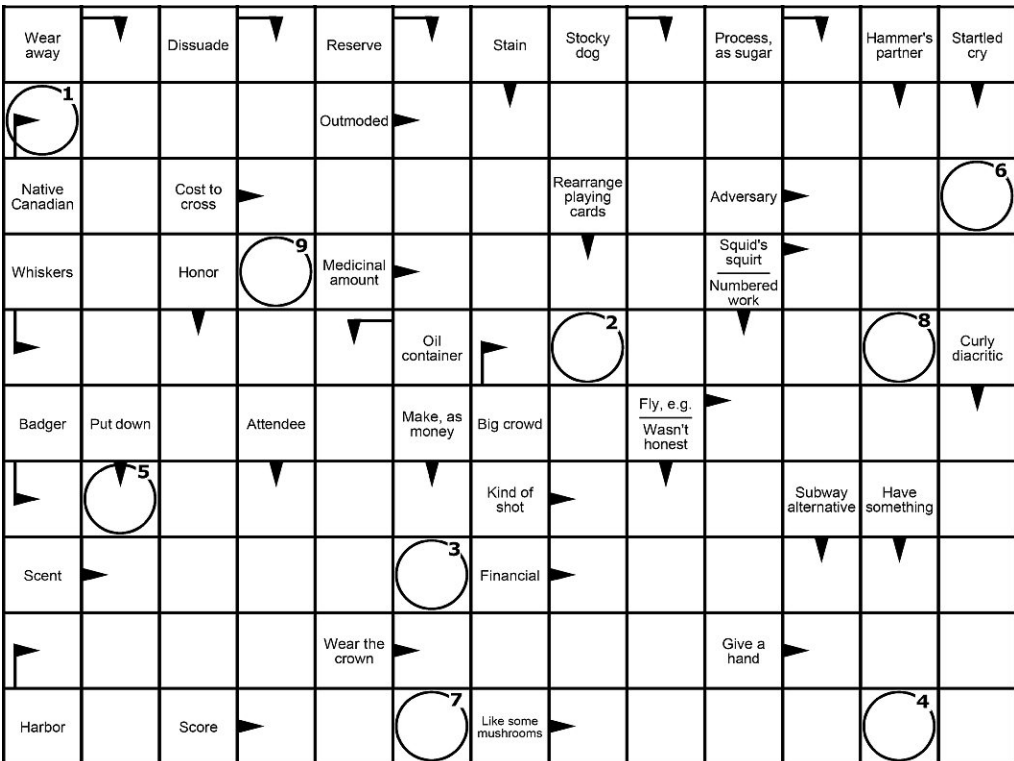
- 37 At a great distance  
38 TV chef  
40 Glenn or Eric  
41 Actor Jason \_\_\_  
42 Marge and Homer's boy  
43 McKinley and Rushmore: abbr.  
44 "The Blind \_\_\_"; movie for Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw  
1 Late mayor of New York City Abe  
2 Mike Vogel sci-fi drama series  
3 Idiot  
4 180° from NNW  
5 In reserve until needed  
6 "Star Trek: Deep Space \_\_\_"  
7 "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's \_\_\_"; Johnny Depp movie  
10 Laurence Fishburne's role on "Hannibal"  
11 Gelatin made from meat stock  
12 "\_\_\_ to Me"; Tim Roth series  
13 "\_\_\_ Vegas"  
15 Actress Downey  
17 "\_\_\_ walked out in the streets of Laredo..."  
19 "The \_\_\_ Breed"; movie for James Stewart and Maureen O'Hara  
20 Takes to court  
22 Very long periods  
23 \_\_\_-back; relaxed  
25 "\_\_\_ Bloods"  
26 "Voyage to the Bottom of the \_\_\_"  
27 Nicolas and others  
30 Is unsuccessful  
31 Building annex, often  
33 Waste maker of proverb  
34 Miner's discovery  
36 One of the Maverick brothers  
37 Jai \_\_\_; fast-paced game  
39 Actor Marshall's monogram  
40 "\_\_\_ Evening News with Scott Pelley"



C H A L L E N G E

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

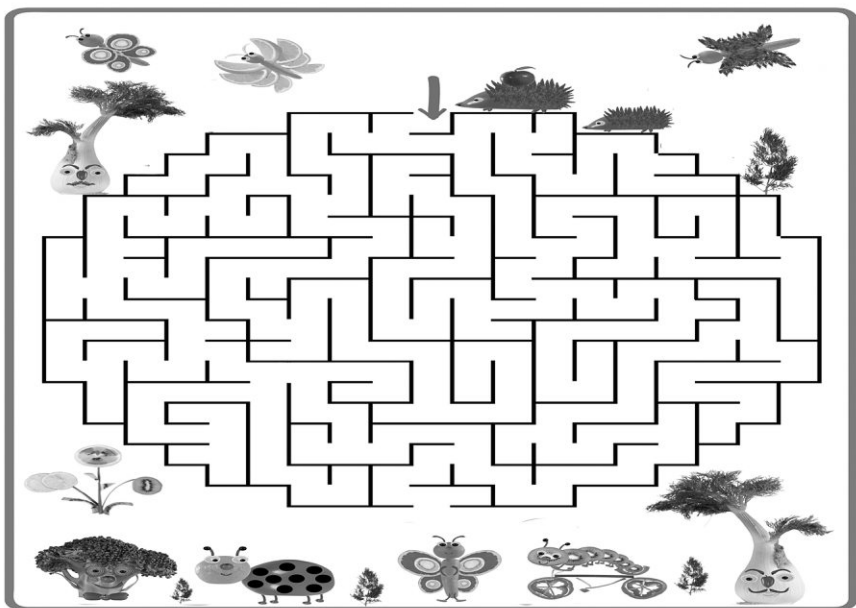


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12/21/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

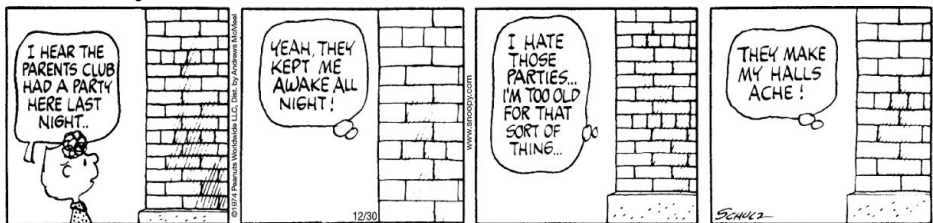


Find the seven differences between the two pictures.

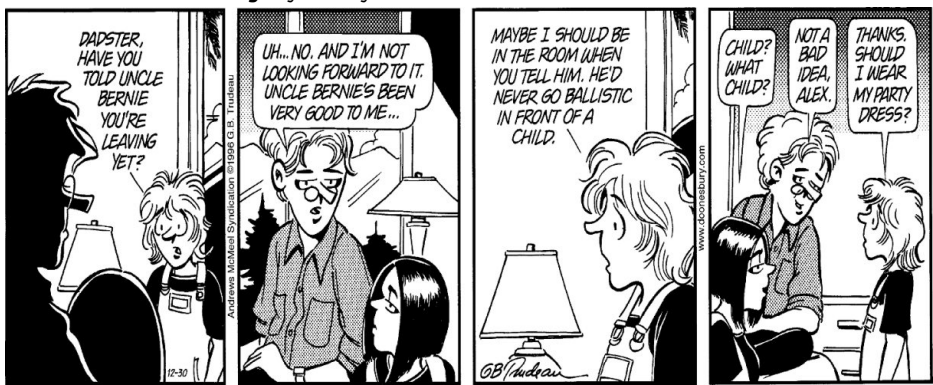
ANSWER:



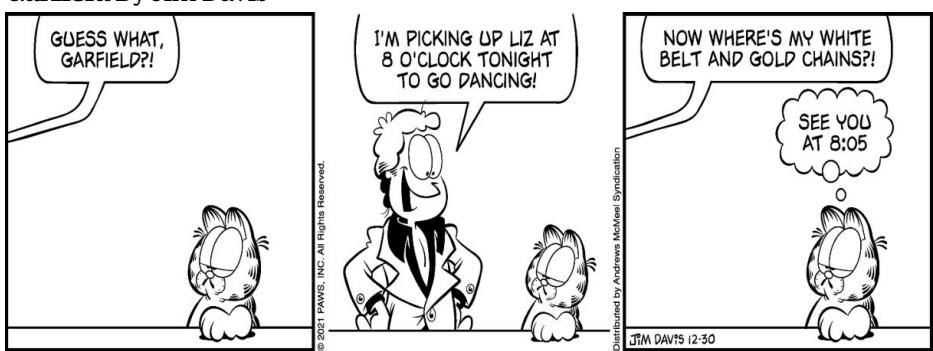
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



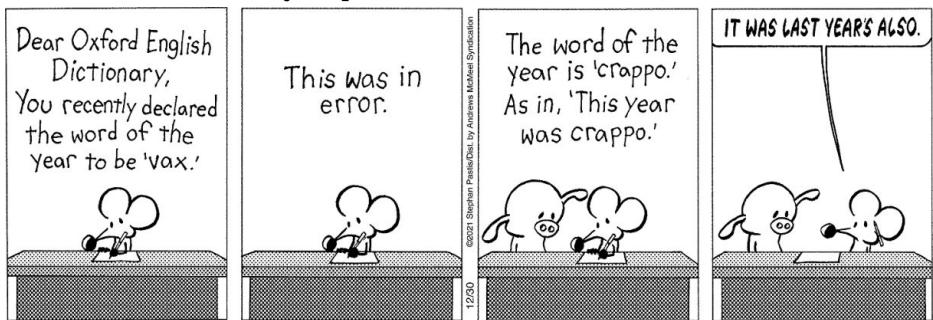
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



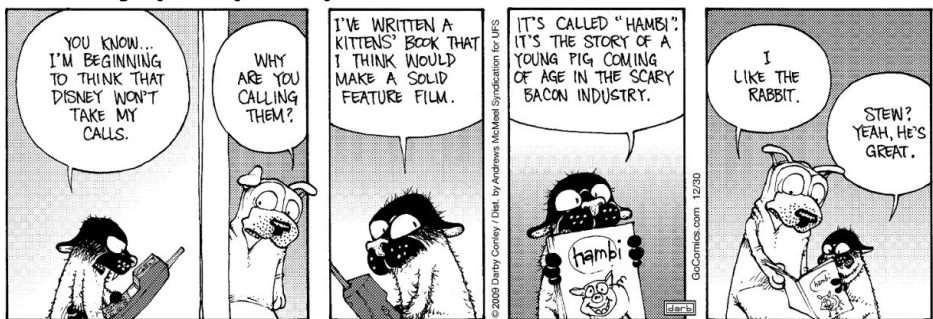
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



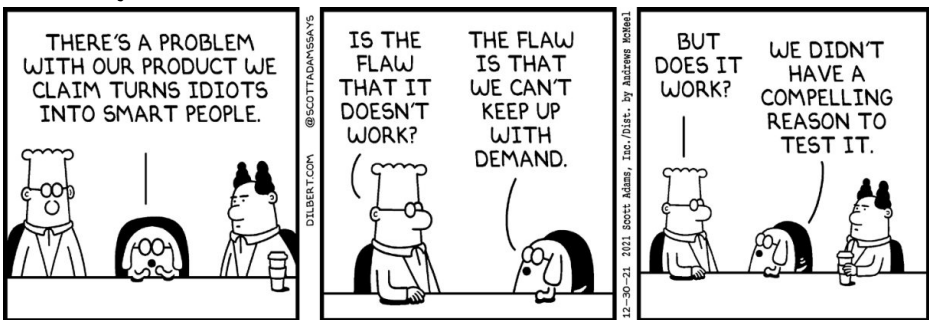
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



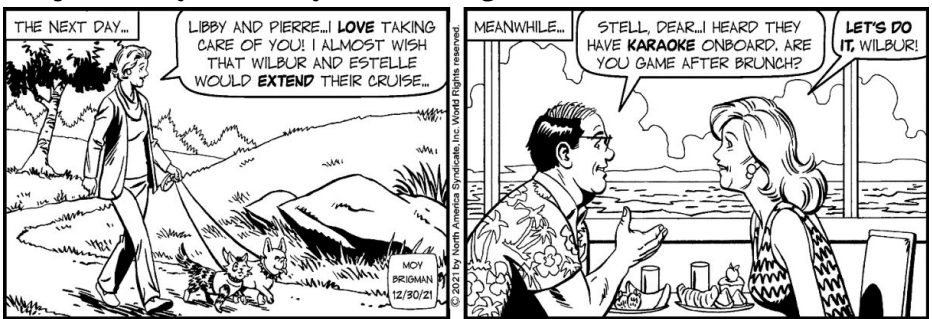
Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



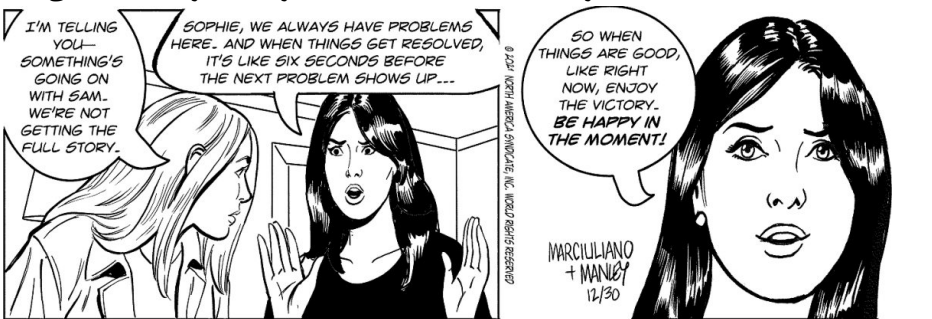
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



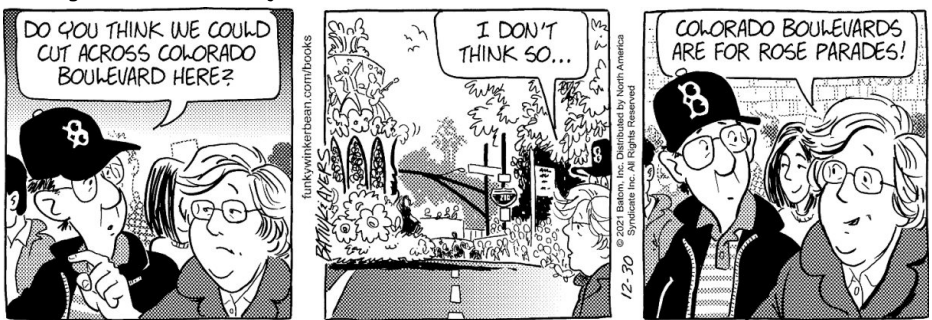
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



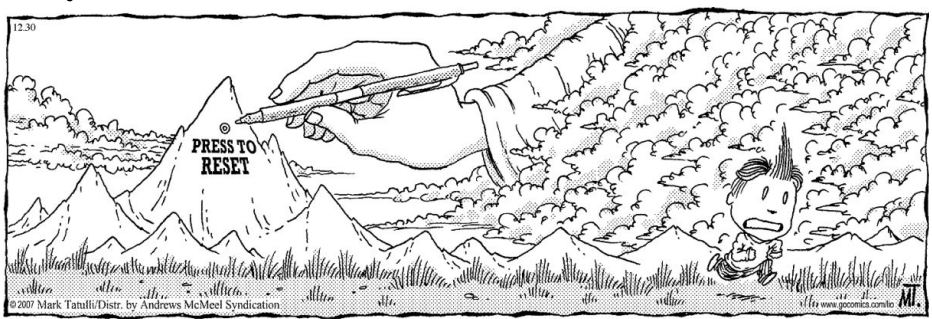
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



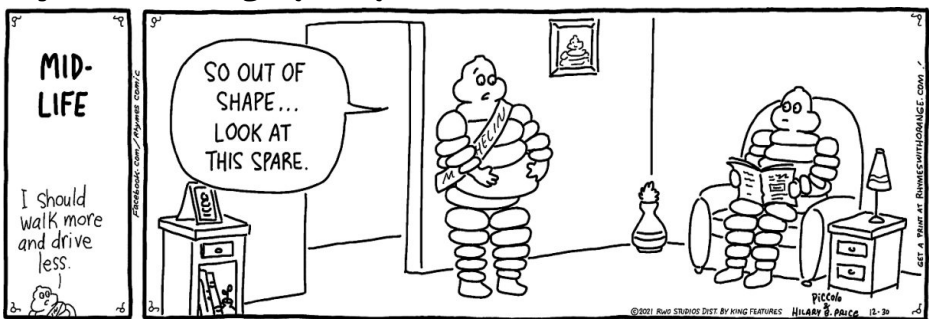
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



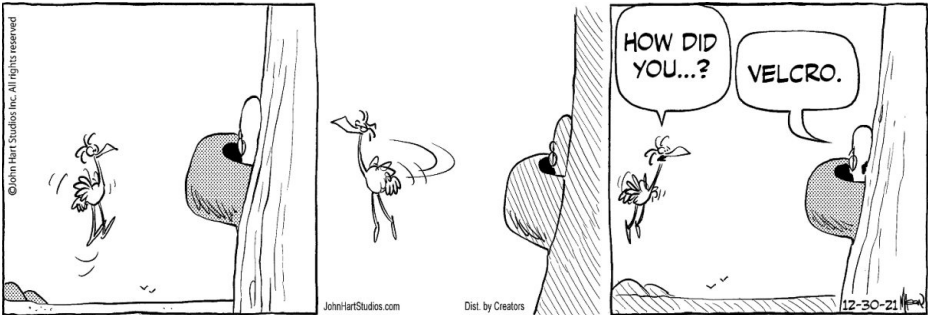
Monty By Jim Meddick



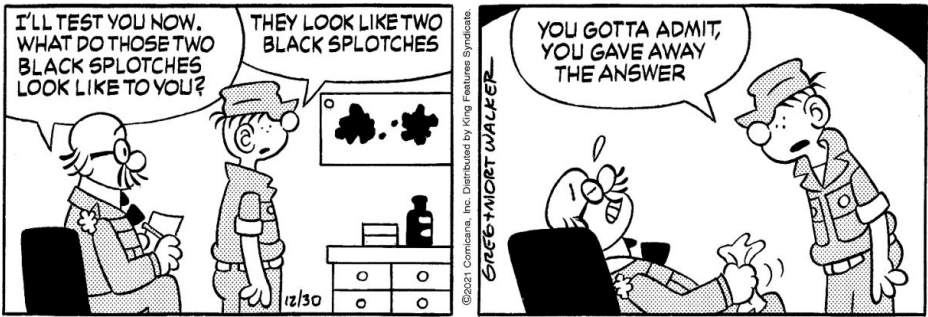
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



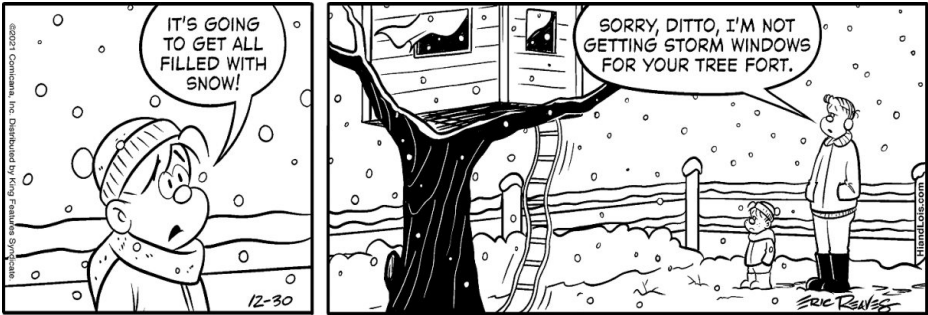
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



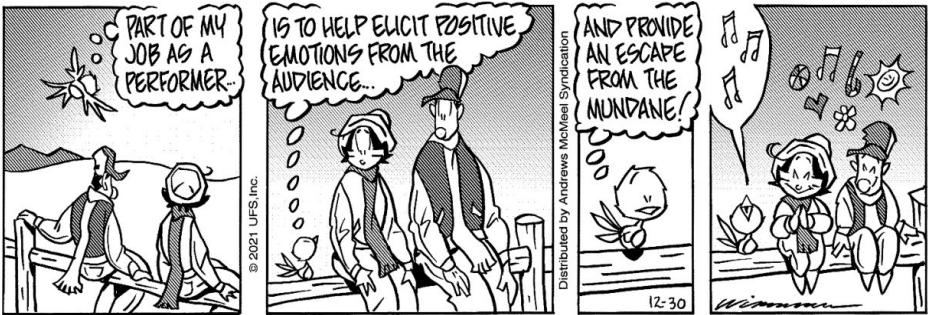
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



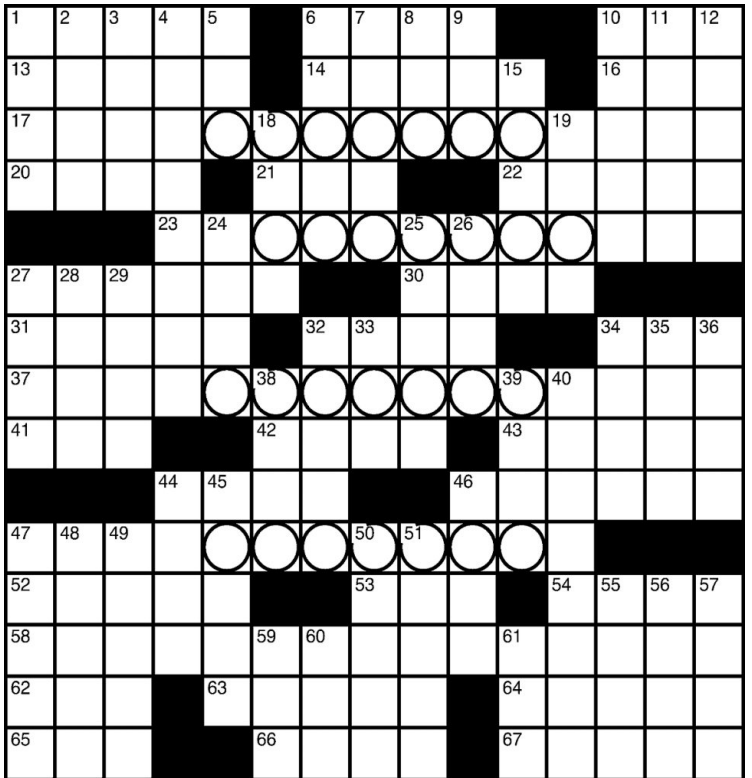
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Spanish gal pal
  - 6 Bygone dictator
  - 10 "Guy": 2019 Billie Eilish #1 hit
  - 13 Winter warmer
  - 14 Troll, at times
  - 16 Summer cooler
  - 17 \*1971 road movie co-starring James Taylor
  - 20 Peddle
  - 21 Creator of the former messaging software AIM
  - 22 Arab League headquarters city
  - 23 \*Astronaut's insulator
  - 27 Suffering
  - 30 Like crab apples
  - 31 Hit the \_\_
  - 32 "That was close!"
  - 34 "Nova" aier
  - 37 \*Part ways for good
  - 41 Reserved
  - 42 Soccer legend Mia
  - 43 Wee, facetiously
  - 44 Flimsy
  - 46 Expression-less
  - 47 \*\*"Key Largo" co-star
  - 52 Ed of "Up"
  - 53 Turn sharply
  - 54 Dash gauge
  - 58 Create instability ... or a hint to each set of circles
  - 62 Barely passing
  - 63 Last critter in a kindergarten reader, maybe
  - 64 Revise
- Down**
- 1 Surveillance system, for short
  - 2 Suffragist Julia Ward \_\_
  - 3 App symbol
  - 4 Chilled Japanese brew
  - 5 Energizer size
  - 6 2000s Fox drama set in Newport Beach
  - 7 Weasel family member known for its fur
  - 8 Ga. airport
  - 9 LGBT activist \_\_
  - 10 It's a dyeing art
  - 11 Really dig
  - 12 Where to get off
  - 15 Miniature vehicle with a remote, briefly
  - 18 Tandoori bread
  - 19 "Critique of Pure Reason" writer
  - 24 City with a notable tower
  - 25 Backup group
  - 26 Many a home front
  - 27 Models for old clones
  - 28 Biblical boater
  - 29 Slow
  - 32 Fallback
  - 33 Something to take up with your tailor?
  - 34 Uni-ball products
  - 35 Low pitch pro
  - 36 American vodka brand
  - 38 \_\_ music: small talk
  - 39 Male pseudonym used by all three Brontë sisters
  - 40 Heart-to-heart
  - 44 Genealogy chart
  - 45 Frequency unit
  - 46 Madly in love
  - 47 Magna cum \_\_
  - 48 According to
  - 49 Indy 500 family name
  - 50 Hyundai sedan
  - 51 Plotting group
  - 55 Not a fan of
  - 56 Looped in, on Gmail
  - 57 Towel term
  - 59 Many a noir hero
  - 60 "Big Little Lies" network
  - 61 \_\_ Cruces



By August Miller

Tribune Content Agency 12/30/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ J 6 3  
♥ 7 5 2  
♦ K 8 4  
♣ A 9 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ 7 5  
♥ J 10 9 3  
♦ J 10 5 2  
♣ J 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ 8 4 2  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ 9 3  
♣ K 10 6 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 10 9  
♥ A K 8  
♦ A Q 7 6  
♣ Q

The bidding:  
**South** 2 ♠\*  
**West** Pass  
**North** 2 NT\*\*  
**East** Pass

\*strong, artificial  
\*\*positive, natural  
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Trump management

The question of when to draw trump, and how many rounds to draw, is the central issue in many hands.

Take this deal where West leads a heart against six spades. South wins with the ace, and if he draws three rounds of trump, he goes down one, losing a heart and a diamond. By drawing all the missing trumps immediately, declarer more or less banks his hopes on a 3-3 diamond division. Since the odds on this are almost 2-1 against, South should search for greener pastures.

He can increase his chances substantially by drawing only two rounds of trump with the A-K. He then leads a diamond to the king, a diamond back to the ace, a club to the ace and another diamond toward the Q-7.

In the actual deal, as well as against several other possible distributions, the defense is rendered helpless by this

succession of plays. What can East do when the eight of diamonds is led from dummy? If he ruffs, declarer follows low and later discards a heart from dummy on the queen of diamonds. He eventually ruffs his losing heart in dummy, so the only trick he loses is East's diamond ruff.

If East does not trump the eight of diamonds, South wins with the queen and ruffs the diamond seven in dummy with the jack of spades. The only trick declarer loses against this defense is a heart.

From the outset, South aims to extract every ounce of mileage out of his trumps. Two rounds of trump are exactly the right number to draw before starting the diamonds. The suggested method of play is by no means guaranteed to win, but it gives declarer a much better chance of making the slam.

**Tomorrow:** Bidding quiz.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INNOU

GSYOG

LOWHOL

NCRAYA

Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

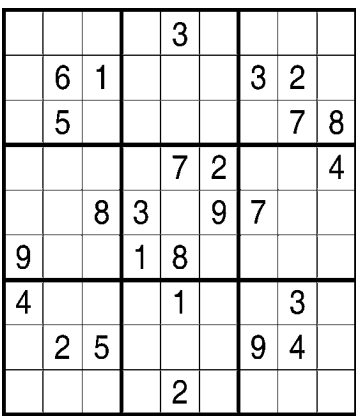
Yesterday's

Jumbles: OUNCE WHILE ISLAND NORMAL

Answer: When their son began to learn addition, his proud parents thought it was — "AWE-SUM"

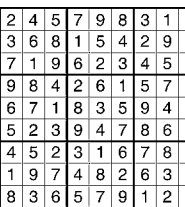


TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Hartford Courant

# SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Huskies' COVID issues nix another game

Matchup with Butler canceled by Big East; conference will attempt to reschedule later

By Shreyas Laddha  
Hartford Courant

The Big East Conference announced that Saturday's UConn men's basketball game against

Butler was canceled due to COVID issues within the UConn program. The game was schedule to be played at the XL Center. Per the Big East game cancellation policy, the conference office will attempt to reschedule the game in accordance with the parameters of the policy. On Monday, UConn men's basketball team announced that its Big East Conference game at Xavier on Tuesday was canceled.

UConn head coach Dan Hurley was among those testing positive. Currently, he is in isolation at home. As the omicron variant rages, the Big East Conference announced a change to their COVID-19 policy regarding games last Thursday. According to new Big East COVID-19 policy, the teams need at least "seven scholarship players and one countable coach" for the games to not be canceled. Games

will be rescheduled for later in the season, according to Big East release, unless schedules do not allow, in which case the games will be ruled no contest. UConn announced that if a game is canceled due to COVID-19, season ticket holders will retain access to their seats for rescheduled contests. If the game cannot be rescheduled, UConn will credit the account of the ticket holder at the end of the season. If a three-

game mini-plan or single game ticket has been purchased for a canceled game, the same ticket can be used for the rescheduled game. Per release, fans can manage their tickets by logging into their account at UConnTickets.com. For any additional questions fans can contact UConn Athletics Ticket Office via email athtickets.uconn.edu or by calling

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PINSTRIPE BOWL



ADAM HUNGER/AP PHOTOS

UCONN ROWING

## Lawsuit settled; program extended through '26

By Lori Riley  
Hartford Courant

UConn reached a settlement Wednesday with 12 members of the women's rowing team who had filed a Title IX lawsuit when the university had eliminated the program amidst budget cutting in the athletic department. As part of the agreement the school has agreed to keep the team through at least the end of the 2026 spring season. UConn also agreed to a number of upgrades, including installing two indoor rowing tanks in the field house, renovating the boathouse on Coventry Lake (including installing bathrooms and new docks) and maintaining 20 scholarships (up from 14). "We were hoping for this outcome," said Maggie Mlynek, one of the plaintiffs who was a captain and has since graduated. "It was a lot of work, but it was so worth it. The future of UConn rowing has never been better. To see where it goes, it's really, really exciting." The school also agreed to an audit of its entire sports program, which will assess Title IX compliance for all UConn women's sports. "I'm extremely proud to have represented those 12 plaintiffs," said Felice Duffy, the lead counsel on the case. "For them to have the courage and resilience in a really crazy year with COVID to fight for what they wanted is a real testament to their character." "The monitoring part of it – that's what the plaintiffs cared

Turn to Rowing, Page 4

## A BRONX BLOWOUT

Virginia Tech quarterback Connor Blumrick (4, above) passes against Maryland during the first half of the annual Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium. Maryland, led by quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa (right), defeated the Hokies, 54-10, on Wednesday. See Page 4



GIANTS

## Barkley finally speaks, won't shut it down for last 2 games

By Pat Leonard  
New York Daily News

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Saquon Barkley said he didn't speak to the media on Sunday or Monday after the Giants' loss to the Eagles because of "the timing." "I'm pretty sure you guys got in contact with our media team, just the timing of after the game with treatment and everything. Wouldn't have aligned," Barkley said after sitting out Wednesday's practice for maintenance on his left ankle. "[It was] kind of a similar situation to what happened earlier in the year with a [game against] Washington, as you would know.

**Up next**  
 **Giants at Bears**  
1 p.m. Sunday  
**■ Inside:** Patriots coach Bill Belichick honors Hall of Famer and "good friend" John Madden. **Page 2**

"The next day [Monday], timing wasn't gonna happen again," he added, "and I kinda know that you guys would be able to talk to me Wednesday, so here I am, guys." Barkley's postgame absence in Philly was described as nothing

Turn to Giants, Page 2



Giants running back Saquon Barkley takes the field to face the Cowboys on Dec. 19 in East Rutherford, N.J. Barkley's postgame absence after Sunday's loss to Philadelphia was described as nothing out of the ordinary. ADAM HUNGER/AP

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## Teams struggling with COVID postponements

By Lori Riley  
Hartford Courant

As the COVID-19 numbers have risen in the state, many high school sports contests have been postponed due to the lack of healthy players. As of late Wednesday afternoon, 60 girls basketball games listed on the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference website had been postponed or canceled, along with 38 boys basketball games and eight boys hockey games. The Bloomfield boys basketball team has been shut down

until Jan. 6 because there were not enough healthy players to field a team. "In the CCC, we're trying to say if there's seven healthy players and a coach, we'd play the games," Bloomfield athletic director Tammy Schondelmayer said. "But we're not even able to accomplish that." Bloomfield (3-0) had to postpone games against Bulkeley Dec. 23, Granby Dec. 30 and Newington Jan. 3 and also had to postpone a rescheduled game on Jan. 5 against MLC after that

Turn to COVID, Page 4

## Did you know?

Black ice forms when the air temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit but warmer than the pavement temperature. This condition can cause moisture to rapidly freeze and create a thin, transparent and dangerous layer of ice on the roadway.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

**Patriots:** Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.  
**Giants:** at Bears, Sunday, 1 p.m.  
**Jets:** Buccaneers, Sunday, 1 p.m.  
**UConn MBB:** Butler (XL), Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Seton Hall, Jan. 8, noon; St. John's (Gampel), Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.  
**UConn WBB:** at Georgetown, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Villanova, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.; Creighton, Jan. 9, 1 p.m.  
**Celtics:** Suns, Friday, 1 p.m.; Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Spurs, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Knicks:** at Thunder, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Raptors, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Pacers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Nets:** 76ers, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Clippers, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
**UConn hockey:** at Harvard, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.  
**Bruins:** Sabres, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Red Wings, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
**Rangers:** at Lightning, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.; Oilers, Monday, 7 p.m.  
**Wolf Pack:** Providence, Friday, 3 p.m.; Rochester, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Rochester, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

**TV/RADIO**  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**1 p.m.:** Maine at Rutgers. BIGTEN  
**5 p.m.:** Prairie View A&M at Northwestern. BIGTEN  
**7 p.m.:** Brown at Maryland. BIGTEN  
**7 p.m.:** Dayton at Rhode Island. CBSSN  
**7 p.m.:** Michigan at UCF. ESPN2  
**7 p.m.:** East Tennessee State at UT-Chattanooga. ESPN  
**9 p.m.:** Marshall at Louisiana Tech. ESPN2/ESPN  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**3 p.m.:** Iowa at Penn State. BIGTEN  
**4 p.m.:** Syracuse at North Carolina. ACC  
**7 p.m.:** Duke at Virginia Tech. ACC  
**7 p.m.:** South Carolina at Missouri. SEC  
**8 p.m.:** Indiana at Rutgers. FS1  
**9 p.m.:** Purdue at Wisconsin. BIGTEN  
**9 p.m.:** Vanderbilt at Texas A&M. SEC  
**NBA**  
**7 p.m.:** Philadelphia at Brooklyn. (Live), YES  
**9:30 p.m.:** Golden State at Denver. NBA  
**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
**11:30 a.m.:** Duke's Mayo Bowl: North Carolina vs South Carolina. ESPN  
**3 p.m.:** Transperfect Music City Bowl: Tennessee vs Purdue. ESPN  
**7 p.m.:** Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl: Pittsburgh vs Michigan State. ESPN  
**10:30 p.m.:** SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl: Wisconsin vs Arizona State. ESPN  
**SOCCER**  
**3:10 p.m.:** Premier League Soccer: Manchester United vs Burnley. NBCSN

JETS

Coach Saleh clears COVID-19 protocols, returns to team along with key players

By DJ Bien-Aime II  
New York Daily News

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — The Jets got their head coach back on Wednesday. And a few key players, too. With new NFL COVID protocols going into effect on Tuesday night, Robert Saleh and multiple players were able to return to the team's Florham Park practice facility. The returning players to the active roster included starting slot cornerback Michael Carter II, defensive lineman and former UConn standout Foley Fatukasi, backup QB Joe Flacco, defensive tackle Jonathan Marshall, line-backer Hamsah Nasirildeen and tight end Kenny Yeboah. Linebacker Noah Dawkins, cornerback

Lamar Jackson and defensive lineman Tanzel Smart returned to the practice squad. The NFL and NFLPA agreed to alter the league's COVID protocols on Tuesday after new CDC guidelines were released. The CDC cut the isolation period after a positive test for asymptomatic individuals from 10 days to five days. That's why the Jets were able to activate so many players Wednesday after playing Sunday's game against the Jaguars with 19 players unavailable due to NFL protocols. And most importantly, Saleh is back after missing a 26-21 win over the Jaguars after testing positive last Wednesday. "It's like the first day of school," Saleh said. "Ready to go another 18 weeks."

Saleh returned to the building after having isolated himself at a local hotel, but the Jets were still meeting virtually. They only gathered as a group for practice and the rookie head coach said he was pleased with the professionalism the Jets demonstrated amidst the chaos. "What I love is the character of our locker room. The way they've attacked this and the way they've kept the spirits up and the way the zoom meetings have been very interactive. And now we'll get to see practice here in a minute, but guys have a tremendous mindset to them. They've been completely locked in. ... "The locker room is in a good place and ready to attack some of this." The Jets are "hope-

ful" other players on the COVID-19 list will return this week as the Jets prepare for Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (11-4) on Sunday afternoon at MetLife Stadium (left guard Alijah Vera-Tucker, right guard Laurent Duvernay-Tardif and wide receiver Vyncint Smith on the offensive side of the ball along with defensive ends John Franklin-Myers and Hamilcar Rashed and safety Ashytn Davis). Saleh was less optimistic about the remaining group still in COVID protocols for Sunday's game. He labeled this group — tight end Tyler Kroft, cornerback Bryce Hall, defensive lineman Jabari Zuniga, defensive tackle Quinnen Williams and practice squad line-backer LaRoy Reynolds — "50-50."

PATRIOTS

Belichick honors late Madden

By Andrew Callahan  
Boston Herald

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — During a video press conference Wednesday, Bill Belichick spoke for five consecutive minutes honoring the late John Madden. And that was only his opening statement. Over most of the 20-minute session, Belichick recalled all that made Madden, a Hall of Fame coach and broadcaster, so great. "It's a huge loss for the NFL and professional football. John is just a tremendous person to be around," Belichick said, before later calling Madden a good friend. "I think we all, probably, set out to try to have a good professional career. John had about five of them. He set the standard for coaching in his era. They had the best record, best teams, championships, and all that. "He certainly did a lot for the league and the competitiveness of the league. He was a great champion for minorities and minority scouting. Some of the great players that they had with the Raiders from the smaller black colleges, he and [AI] Davis brought into the organization. Then he moved to broadcasting and, certainly, increased the popularity of the game, singlehandedly, by quite a bit." Belichick recounted coaching against Madden in the late 1970s, when he led the Raiders to a Super Bowl title. Belichick used the word "mystique" to describe the experience of facing those Oakland teams, a term opponents have used before playing his Patriots for years now. Madden broadcast several of Belichick's most formative games as a head coach, including one of his first preseason games in Cleveland and the Pats' famous upset of the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI. They also collaborated over the NFL's Top 100 players list two summers ago. "Any time he spoke, I listened," Belichick said. "Whether that was in private conversation, group meeting, or a forum where other people spoke. ... you could always see where he was



The Patriots' Rhamondre Stevenson celebrates his touchdown during second half against the Browns on Nov. 14 at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. **MATT STONE/MEDIANEWS GROUP/BOSTON HERALD**

coming from. And it was always, I felt like, what was best for the game and a very unselfish view. "He presented it that way, and I think that's why he was so respected, because his motivation was for the game, the fans, the entertainment, the safety, and all the things that are right about football. That's what he stood for." Belichick even admitted to playing the Madden NFL video game, which helped elevate the league's popularity greatly in the 1990s and early 2000s. Belichick said he played a few times with his kids, including sons, Steve and Brian, who are now on staff. More recently, Belichick sat down for an on-camera interview as part of the "All Madden" documentary that will air Thursday on FOX at 8 p.m. and detail the life and career of an all-time football icon. "He was a Hall of Fame coach and then, all the other stuff that came on top of it, what a man," Belichick said of Madden. "What a career." **Stevenson returns, no new COVID cases:** Rookie running back Rhamondre Stevenson and backup linebacker Harvey Langi were activated off COVID-19 reserve Wednesday and returned to practice. Stevenson sat out last weekend's

kickoff against Buffalo, while Langi has missed several weeks between stints on COVID-19 and injured reserve. Before testing positive, Stevenson earned the right to split carries with starter Damien Harris. This season, the Oklahoma product's averaged 4.2 yards per carry, while rushing for 465 yards and three touchdowns. The Patriots received more good news when zero players tested positive Wednesday. Veteran linebacker Dont'a Hightower revealed players have spoken amongst themselves about taking every precaution to protect themselves and the team's playoff chances, especially with five teammates testing positive this week. "I'll say, we've had a discussion," Hightower said. "I won't go into what it all entailed, but I think everyone is kind of aware of how contagious it is, and once it gets in, it's in there. We've had the luxury these last couple of weeks of it not being here and seeing it hit other teams and seeing how it can tear a season down, tear a couple of weeks down and put them in a tough situation. "We know what we have in front of us, so we're hoping everyone does the right thing."

Giants

from Page 1

out of the ordinary by the Giants' media team. It was normal treatment and the buses' imminent departure. Devontae Booker was the only non-QB to speak for the offense after its horrendous performance. Head coach Joe Judge said he doesn't "pay a lot of attention" to which players are requested after games. He noted Barkley "was with the trainers for a good amount of time" postgame but also called it his "normal treatment." When Judge was pressed on the rule that every player is supposed to be available after every game, he said: "I'll make sure [senior VP of communications] Pat [Hanlon] addresses that and we'll see if there's anything that needs to be adjusted based on league policy." Barkley then appeared on a Zoom video call Wednesday. The Giants' running back gave a terse answer when asked if he has thought about shutting it down the last two weeks to preserve his ankle. "No," he said. He also said he hasn't thought about whether this could be his final two games as a Giant. "No, I don't," he said. "I can't control those things. I can't control those. I can't have that thought process." On Sunday, Barkley will return to Chicago's Soldier Field, where he tore his right ACL in Week 2 of last season. But he said: "I'm not thinking like, 'I hate the field.' I'm excited that I'm healthy enough to be able to go out there and be able to play another game." **Glennon and Fromm again?:** Judge said he would "expect to see both" quarterbacks Mike Glennon and Jake Fromm play on Sunday at the Chicago Bears. The Giants aren't signing another quarterback. The nightmare continues. "No. We've talked about it with the personnel department, but no," Judge said. The Giants' coach said there could be a rotation depending on "if we think one thing is better for one guy. We'll see how they practice and how we'll go into the game." **Touchy Toney:** Giants receiver Kadarius Toney sat out Wednesday's practice with a shoulder injury. He casually strolled out to the sideline in uniform while the rest of the team was stretching. The list of injuries that have cost Toney either practice or game time in his rookie season is alarmingly long: positive for COVID twice, hamstring, ankle, thumb, quad, oblique and shoulder. That's not counting a toe or foot ailment during OTAs after he wore cleats that didn't fit. **Wilson still not available:** Giants practice squad guard Isaiah Wilson still hasn't been made available to the media since signing with the team Sept. 30. Wilson was on Sunday's active roster in uniform on the sideline in Philadelphia as a COVID replacement and didn't play a snap. His signing was controversial. The team continues to hide him.

KNICKS 94, PISTONS 85

Burks, bench power past short-handed Detroit

Associated Press

DETROIT — Alec Burks scored a season-high 34 points to lead a huge night from New York's bench and the Knicks beat the short-handed Detroit Pistons 94-85 Wednesday. Burks was a point shy of his career high and Immanuel Quickley added 18 points as the Knicks' reserves combined for 65 points. RJ Barrett was the only starter in double figures at 15 points, and New York outscored Detroit 30-14 in the fourth quarter. Saddiq Bey had a career-high 32 points for the Pistons, while Hamidou Diallo had a season-high 31 points with 13 rebounds. The Pistons have lost four in a row and 18 of 19. A COVID-19 outbreak has left them with just four players from their usual 15-man roster, with seven replacements in on 10-day contracts and another on a two-way

deal. One of the four players on the main roster, Frank Jackson, injured his ankle in the first half and didn't return. New York led 48-41 at halftime. Detroit scored the first 11 points of the second half and also had a 14-2 run in the third quarter. Burks scored 10 points during the Knicks' 14-0 run to start the fourth quarter. That gave New York a seven-point lead, and it led the remainder of the game. **Notes:** The Knicks have won seven straight against the Pistons. ... New York's three-game winning streak matches its longest this season. The Knicks also won three straight Oct. 26-30. ... Knicks guard Evan Fournier was a late scratch due to a sore right ankle. ... Justin Robinson made his Pistons debut after playing a combined 20 games for Milwaukee and Sacramento this season. He had three points in 11 minutes.



Pistons forward Saddiq Bey drives as Knicks forward Julius Randle defends during the first half Wednesday in Detroit. **CARLOS OSORIO/AP**

... Detroit's Trayvon Palmer made his NBA debut in the first half. Palmer, 27, signed a 10-day contract on Tuesday. He went scoreless in 17 minutes.

NHL

Players vent frustration over being barred from Olympics

Associated Press

Brad Marchand is not happy. Neither is Vladimir Tarasenko. And they are not alone. A handful of NHL players are voicing their frustration over the league's decision barring them from participating in the Beijing Olympics. Even though the agreement between the league and NHL Players' Association was contingent on pandemic conditions not worsening and disrupting the season, many say they are upset they were never given the choice to go. Marchand, Boston's top left winger who would have been a shoo-in for Canada's Olympic roster, ripped the league and union for bringing back taxi squads to keep the season going but not to push through February with players given the option to go to Beijing. "For all of you who want to pipe back about forfeit-

ing pay while being gone, (yeah) not a problem," Marchand said in a lengthy Twitter post. "Let the players make their choice." Letting players make individual choices to leave their NHL teams for the Olympics was never on the table. The possibility broached by Marchand and Tarasenko happens more in soccer, which allows players to go on loan to national teams for international competition when a season is not paused. Tarasenko would have been one of Russia's top forwards at the Olympics and said he would have left the Blues to represent his country if given the choice. Alex Ovechkin said he wanted to go to the Pyeongchang Games in 2018 even if the NHL did not participate. The Capitals captain relented before training camp in 2017, with he and other players begrudgingly accepting the Olympics would go on without them.

# SCOREBOARD

## NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	23	9	.719	—
Philadelphia	18	16	.529	6
Boston	16	18	.471	8
New York	16	18	.471	8
Toronto	14	17	.452	8½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	22	13	.629	—
Charlotte	18	17	.514	4
Washington	17	17	.500	4½
Atlanta	15	18	.455	6
Orlando	7	28	.200	15

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	21	10	.677	—
Milwaukee	23	13	.639	½
Cleveland	20	14	.588	2½
Indiana	14	20	.412	8½
Detroit	5	27	.156	16½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	21	14	.600	—
Dallas	16	17	.485	4
San Antonio	14	19	.424	6
New Orleans	13	22	.371	8
Houston	10	25	.286	11

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	24	9	.727	—
Denver	17	16	.515	7
Minnesota	16	18	.471	8½
Portland	13	20	.394	11
Oklahoma City	12	21	.364	12

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	27	7	.794	—
Phoenix	26	7	.788	½
L.A. Clippers	17	17	.500	10
L.A. Lakers	17	18	.486	10½
Sacramento	14	21	.400	13½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS				
Charlotte	at Indiana,	late		
New York	at Detroit,	late		
L.A. Clippers	at Boston,	late		
Atlanta	at Chicago,	late		
L.A. Lakers	at Memphis,	late		
Oklahoma City	at Phoenix,	late		
Utah	at Portland,	late		
Dallas	at Sacramento,	late		
Miami	at San Antonio,	ppd.		

THURSDAY'S GAMES				
Cleveland	at Washington,	7p.m.		
Milwaukee	at Orlando,	7p.m.		
Philadelphia	at Brooklyn,	7p.m.		
Golden State	at Denver,	9:30p.m.		

FRIDAY'S GAMES				
Phoenix	at Boston,	1p.m.		
Chicago	at Indiana,	3p.m.		
Dallas	at Sacramento,	6p.m.		
Miami	at Houston,	7p.m.		
Atlanta	at Cleveland,	7:30p.m.		
L.A. Clippers	at Toronto,	7:30p.m.		
New York 96,	Minnesota 88			
L.A. Lakers 132,	Houston 123			
Denver 89,	Golden State 86			
Sacramento 117,	Oklahoma City 111			

TUESDAY'S RESULTS				
Milwaukee 127,	Orlando 110			
Miami 119,	Washington 112			
Philadelphia 114,	Toronto 109			
New Orleans 108,	Cleveland 104			
New York 96,	Minnesota 88			
L.A. Lakers 132,	Houston 123			
Denver 89,	Golden State 86			
Sacramento 117,	Oklahoma City 111			

ODDS				
COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE	LINE	THURSDAY UNDERDOG		
at Appalachian St.	3	La Lafayette		
Michigan	4½	at UCF		
at Chattanooga	8	East Tennessee St.		
at Maryland	12½	Brown		
at Detroit Mercy	3½	Youngstown St.		
Old Dominion	1	at Fla int'l		
at Richmond	11½	St. Joseph's (Pa.)		
at Oakland	14½	Robert Morris		
at Coastal Carolina	4½	La Monroe		
at No. Kentucky	9	Green Bay		
at Wright State	8½	Milwaukee		
at La Salle	1	Fordham		
at Sam Houston	9½	Lamar		
Ga. Southern	4½	at Ark Little Rock		
at UAB	13½	UTEP		
at Oral Roberts	14	Denver		
at Grand Canyon	21½	Chicago State		
South Dakota St.	4	at N. Dakota St.		
at Murray State	19	SE Missouri St.		
South Alabama	2	at Tex A&M Univ.		
at Texas State	9	Troy		
at Utah Valley	2	Abilene Christian		
at Austin Peay	6½	Tenn. Martin		
at Montana	10	Idaho State		
at Montana St.	1½	Weber State		
Tarleton State	3½	at Dixie State		
at Louisiana Tech	7	Marshall		
Utah	3	at Oregon State		
at Southern Utah	14	Sacramento St.		
at Portland State	1	E. Washington		
UCSB	4	at UCSF		
CSU Fullerton	1	at CS Bakersfield		

NBA				
FAVORITE	LINE	THURSDAY O/U	UNDERDOG	
Milwaukee	12½	(217)	at Orlando	
at Brooklyn	3	(217)	Philadelphia	
Washington	off	(off)	Cleveland	
Golden State	4½	(213)	at Denver	

NHL				
FAVORITE	LINE	THURSDAY UNDERDOG	Line	
Nashville	-126	at Columbus	+105	
at Carolina	-280	Montreal	+225	
at Florida	-120	Tampa Bay	+100	
at NY Islanders	-215	Buffalo	+176	
Calgary	-137	at Seattle	+114	
at Los Angeles	-134	Vancouver	+112	
at San Jose	-134	Philadelphia	+112	

COLLEGE FOOTBALL				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	THURSDAY UNDERDOG	
Duke's Mayo Bowl	10	(57)	South Carolina	
Music City Bowl	6	(65)	Purdue	
Peach Bowl				
Michigan State	2½	(55½)	Pittsburgh	
Las Vegas Bowl				
Wisconsin	6	(41)	Arizona State	
Gator Bowl				
Wake Forest	15	(57½)	Rutgers	
Sun Bowl				
Washington St.	7	(59)	Cent. Michigan	
CFF Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic				
Alabama	13½	(58)	Cincinnati	
CFF Semifinal Orange Bowl				
Georgia	7½	(45½)	Michigan	
Outback Bowl				
Penn State	1	(48)	Saturday Arkansas	
Fiesta Bowl				
Notre Dame	2½	(45½)	Oklahoma St.	
Citrus Bowl				
Kentucky	3	(44)	Iowa	
Rose Bowl				
Ohio St.	4½	(64)	Utah	
Sugar Bowl				
Mississippi	1½	(55½)	Baylor	
Texas Bowl				
LSU	1	(47)	Kansas State	

CFF TITLE GAME EXACT RESULT				
Georgia defeats Alabama	7-4			
Alabama defeats Georgia	43-20			
Alabama defeats Michigan	5-1			
Georgia defeats Cincinnati	7-1			
Michigan defeats Alabama	8-1			
Michigan defeats Cincinnati	22-1			
Cincinnati defeats Georgia	20-1			
Cincinnati defeats Michigan	40-1			

NFL WEEK 17				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	SUNDAY UNDERDOG	
Philadelphia	3½	(45)	at Washington	
at Buffalo	14½	(44)	Atlanta	
at Chicago	6	(37½)	NY Giants	
Kansas City	5½	(50½)	at Cincinnati	
at Indianapolis	6½	(44½)	Las Vegas	
at New England	15½	(41½)	Jacksonville	
Tampa Bay	3½	(40½)	at NY Jets	
at Tennessee	3	(40½)	Miami	
LA Rams	3½	(46½)	at Baltimore	
at LA Chargers	6	(45½)	Denver	
at San Fran.	12½	(44½)	Houston	
at Seattle	7	(42½)	Detroit	
at Dallas	5½	(51½)	Arizona	
at New Orleans	7	(38½)	Carolina	
at Green Bay	6½	(47½)	Minnesota	
Cleveland	3	(41)	at Pittsburgh	

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/), <https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/>

## NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	31	21	6	4	46	103	84			
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76			
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87			
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104			
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69			
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104			
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101			
Montreal	32	7	21	4	18	71	114			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92			
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79			
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85			
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91			
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87			
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85			
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97			
Arizona	30	6	21	3	15	63	117			

PACIFIC										
GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA				
Vegas	33	21	12	0	42	120	101			
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89			
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62			
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90			
San Jose	31	16	14	1	33	86	92			
Los Angeles	31	14	12	5	33	83	85			
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90			
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108			

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS										
N.Y. Rangers	at Florida,	late								
Nashville	at Washington,	late								
New Jersey	at Buffalo,	late								
Edmonton	at St. Louis,	late								
Philadelphia	at Seattle,	late								
Vancouver	at Anaheim,	late								
Boston	at Ottawa,	ppd								
Chicago	at Winnipeg,	ppd								
Detroit	at N.Y. Islanders,	ppd								
Pittsburgh	at Toronto,	ppd								
Dallas	at Colorado,	ppd								

THURSDAY'S GAMES										
Montreal	at Carolina,	7p.m.								
Nashville	at Columbus,	7p.m.								
Tampa Bay	at Florida,	7p.m.								
Buffalo	at N.Y. Islanders,	7:30p.m.								
Calgary	at Seattle,	10p.m.								
Philadelphia	at San Jose,	10:30p.m.								
Vancouver	at Los Angeles,	10:30p.m.								

NFL						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Jan. 5:** at Georgetown,  
7 p.m., SNY

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Jan. 8:** at Seton Hall,  
noon, FOX

**UConn**  
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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AP FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

# Parker honored after return propels Sky to WNBA title

Associated Press

Candace Parker wrestled with the decision to make a huge change in her life and leave Los Angeles — where she had played her entire WNBA career — and head home to Chicago.

In the end, the appeal of a homecoming was too much for Parker to ignore, and it couldn't have worked out better.

The 35-year-old Parker staved off Father Time to help the Chicago Sky win the franchise's first WNBA championship and capped off 2021 by being named Associated Press' Female Athlete of the Year for a second time.

"There was something about going to where you started playing the game," Parker said in a phone interview. "It's exciting to play in front of the people who first saw me pick up a basketball. To win at home, I'm just now recognizing it a little bit. How special that really is. Something that is top on my list."

It's a list that keeps the working mom and basketball analyst for TNT pretty

busy. Parker is finally beginning to appreciate bringing a title to her hometown in the twilight of her career.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in the WNBA Finals, Parker sprinted to the corner of the court where she hugged family and friends, celebrating becoming one of the rare elite athletes to return home and win a championship.

It was a long shot ending not many saw coming when Parker made the move. Winning it all seemed an even more remote possibility at the start of the WNBA season when the Sky lost seven of their first nine games. Parker was sidelined with an ankle injury, but when she returned, Chicago started winning and earned a No. 6 seed in the playoffs.

"I'm really thankful for those who made my journey and the people who supported me making it as smooth as possible. My daughter, my wife, my immediate family, we rolled with it. We wanted it," she said. "Things are going to get hard, but stick with it."



Chicago Sky forward/center Candace Parker speaks during a celebration of the Sky's WNBA title Oct. 19 in Chicago.

ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It is an approach to life that made Parker second-guess her decision.

Parker was concerned that she would be viewed as a quitter by leaving Los Angeles. This despite being named the AP award winner her rookie year with the Sparks in 2008, when she was honored as the WNBA's MVP and top rookie. She also guided the Sparks to the championship in 2016 and is one of 14 players to have won a college, WNBA and Olympic title. She played college ball at Tennessee, where she won

two titles.

"I'm a big believer when you start something you finish it. When you say something, you do it. I'm not perfect, as I do say stuff and don't follow through," said Parker, a two-time Olympic gold medalist. "My parents taught me don't quit. I wanted to finish my career in LA, but I also finished my contract, I committed to that amount of time. I didn't ask to be traded. The better opportunity for me and my family was to go back home."



Maryland quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa scrambles during the first quarter of the New Era Pinstripe Bowl against Virginia Tech on Wednesday at Yankee Stadium in New York. DUSTIN SATLOFF/GETTY

PINSTRIPE BOWL MARYLAND 54, VIRGINIA TECH 10

# Fearing the turtle

Tua Tagovailoa's brother leads Maryland to rout at Yankee Stadium

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tarheeb Still returned a punt 92 yards for a touchdown, Taulia Tagovailoa threw touchdown passes of 70 and 32 yards to Darryl Jones, and the sudden scores sparked Maryland to a 54-10 rout of Virginia Tech in the Pinstripe Bowl on Wednesday.

The game belonged to Tagovailoa, an Alabama transfer and younger brother of Miami Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa. He threw for 265 yards and the two TD passes brought his season total to 26, which tied Maryland's single-season record.

The game's MVP, Tagovailoa helped the Terrapins (7-6) get the better of

the Hokies at Yankee Stadium — and even on TV.

Brent Pry was hired last month as Virginia Tech's coach — J.C. Price served as interim coach — and went on ESPN during the game to hype the 2022 season. Pry boasted, "We are gonna play a great brand of defense. "Seconds later, Tagovailoa connected with Jones for the deep play and a 14-3 lead. Pry was good-naturedly roasted on social media, and Maryland even tweeted the clip with a grimacing face emoji.

Pry must have grimaced when Tagovailoa hit Jones again in the third quarter for a 34-10 lead that helped send the Terps to their first bowl win since 2010.

Jones, a senior wide receiver, had never caught a touchdown pass over his first 40 games. He had two and finished with 111 yards receiving against the Hokies (6-7).

Antwain Littleton II added a 4-yard

rushing TD for Maryland and Joseph Petrino answered the Hokies' lone touchdown with a 44-yard field goal with 59 seconds left in the first half for a 24-10 lead. Roman Hemby scored on a 2-yard run in the third quarter.

**Yankee connection:** The Hokies have a special bond with the Yankees following the April 16, 2007, shooting on the Virginia Tech campus that left 32 dead. The Yankees made a \$1 million donation to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund and followed up the next season with an exhibition game against Virginia Tech on the Blacksburg campus. The Yankees wore caps in the Hokies' orange and maroon, their "NY" emblem on the front and a "VT" logo on the side.

The Hokies returned the favor in the Pinstripe Bowl and wore the interlocking "NY" on their helmets. The winner of the Pinstripe Bowl receives the George M. Steinbrenner Trophy.

## Huskies

from Page 1

1-877-AT-UConn.

The news comes just one day after the UConn women's basketball team canceled its game against DePaul due to COVID-19 issues within the program. Earlier this week, they also had a home game canceled again Marquette due to COVID-19 issues within the Marquette program.

The next opportunity to play a game for the men's side will come on Jan. 8 when they head on the road to face Big East foe Seton Hall. The Huskies last played game dates back to Dec. 21, when UConn defeated Marquette 78-70. In that game, Huskies star Adama Sanogo returned from a four game absence due to abdominal strain and played 12 minutes. Sanogo put up six points and two rebounds.

## Rowing

from Page 1

about. They didn't care just about rowing, they cared about gender equity."

If the case had not been settled, it would have gone to trial, in a process that would likely have lasted multiple years. Given the evidence presented at a temporary restraining order hearing in May, Judge Stefan R. Underhill stated in his ruling that the rowers would have likely prevailed in the case.

In the summer of 2020, the university announced that women's rowing was set to be eliminated, along with men's swimming and diving, tennis and cross country, after the 2020-21 season. A group of rowing alumnae filed a Title IX complaint in the spring and on April 28, the 12 rowers filed a federal Title IX lawsuit in U.S. District Court against UConn, asking for a temporary restraining order to keep the program alive past the spring season.

Underhill granted the order in late May that prevented the school from cutting the team until an August hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction. In his decision, Underhill cited irreparable harm to the plaintiffs and noted that according to testimony of Title IX expert Donna Lopiano, UConn had not been in compliance with Title IX since 2008.

Title IX, enacted in 1972, is the federal law that guarantees equal participation

opportunities for women in education.

In July, UConn announced it would keep the rowing program for the next two years so the program could continue and the coaches could continue to recruit while the lawsuit was pending.

With the upgrades, coach Jen Sanford envisions UConn becoming a high-level rowing program.

"With these resources in place UConn could become a top 20 team, could go to NCAAs," Sanford said. "Things like having rowing tanks and 20 scholarships, it makes a big difference. I'm excited for the future of the program."

While Sanford was pleased with UConn and its decision to settle, she also felt that the case sent a message to other universities thinking of cutting women's teams.

"A university is going to look at what happened at UConn and hopefully do a little more research before they make a decision to cut another women's rowing team," she said.

As a student at UConn in the late 1970s, Duffy filed a Title IX complaint that led to the university forming a women's soccer team in 1979 and she was the one of the team's first All-Americans.

"As a UConn alum, I'm really proud that UConn's doing this and they can be on the forefront of creating a place that is really treating women the best they can and having high quality athletic programs," Duffy said.

## COVID

from Page 1

team couldn't play earlier in the season.

Executive director Glenn Lungarini said the CIAC is keeping an eye on the situation and that the organization has been monitoring transmission due to game competition throughout the pandemic. So far, he said that has been "very low."

"We expected as we came indoors that postponements would be part of the winter season and when we were going through the holiday season we would see a bump in positive cases, although I don't think anybody anticipated it to be where we are right now in terms of positivity," he said.

Connecticut's seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate is at nearly 13% as of Wednesday and cases are at an all-time high throughout the state.

"We still have a significant amount of time left in the winter season so there's not cause for concern at this time. The winter season is one of our longer seasons so we have plenty of time to make up games."

The Canton girls basketball team was supposed to host a holiday tournament but the team was unable to play Wednesday after Hall, its opponent, pulled out. So Farmington and St. Joseph-Trumbull played Wednesday at Canton. High and Canton is scheduled to play Farmington Thursday. "Farmington could get

two games and I get one and it's my tournament," Canton coach Brian Medeiros said. "It's crazy."

Medeiros also said a flu bug went through his team before Christmas and Canton had to play Rockville. Both teams had eight players each.

"We canceled JV and played a varsity game," Medeiros said. "It was probably more a JV-varsity game. I started two freshmen. Four of my major varsity players couldn't play."


The Simsbury girls, who are 5-0, were also supposed to host a holiday tournament, which was eventually canceled after the three other teams pulled out.

"We went from a tournament to two games to one game to zero games," coach Sam Zullo said. "We thought about rescheduling the whole thing to a Saturday-Sunday in late January but that might put people in a tough spot, having 4-5 games in a week, which you can't do."

Zullo was at least able to schedule a scrimmage with Sacred Heart Academy this week.

Manchester boys basketball coach John Reiser's team is healthy but he hasn't played since Dec. 20 against Newington. Hall pulled out of a game scheduled for Tuesday against Manchester.

"Hopefully we'll play against RHAM on Monday," Reiser said. "It will be nice to play somebody other than Manchester. Honestly, though the preseason is so short, it gave us a chance to work on some things."



## Safety Tip of the Day

If you're ever in a car accident, or must stop on the shoulder for an emergency, don't count on other drivers to see you or be careful.

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# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Colts reached out to retired Rivers



When Carson Wentz tested positive for COVID-19 this week, Frank Reich reached for the phone and called a long-time friend for help. That friend was Philip Rivers. A one-year starter for the Colts last season, Rivers has been enjoying retirement with his nine kids in California after a 17-year career. The 40-year-old hung it up after the Colts told him last spring they were exploring other options, before they traded a first-round pick to the Eagles for Wentz. But now that Wentz was out with COVID-19, slated to miss 10 days and at least one game as an unvaccinated player, Reich decided to check in. Rivers was a unique but specific option as an eight-time Pro Bowler who led the Colts to an 11-5 record with 24 TDs and 11 interceptions last season. “Yes, I have talked to Philip. ... I’m close to him,” said Reich. “We’ve talked all year long.” Reich emphasized that talks were about the Colts’ “situation” with Wentz. Rivers had left the door cracked to a possible late-season return with a playoff contender. Rookie QB Sam Ehlinger will start this week against the Raiders if Wentz remains out for the Colts.

City strengthens grip on EPL title

Manchester City’s grip on its Premier League title hasn’t been this strong all season. A 1-0 win at Brentford, coupled with Chelsea conceding a stoppage-time goal to draw 1-1 against Brighton, left the defending champions with an eight-point lead heading into the new year. It has been an almost perfect 24 hours for City, which saw Liverpool — another rival for the title — surprisingly lose 1-0 at injury-hit Leicester on Tuesday. Chelsea has moved a point ahead of third-place Liverpool before their meeting at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, when at least one of the teams will drop points. Liverpool has a game in hand, but will soon lose star forwards Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane to the African Cup of Nations. City wasn’t at its fluent best against Brentford — Pep Guardiola’s team came into the match having scored 17 goals in its last three matches — but still did enough to earn a 10th straight win in the league. “I am not going to believe you when you say it is already done,” Guardiola said. “There are 54 points still to play for.” Yet City is even winning when not playing its best. Phil Foden grabbed the only goal in the 16th minute, diverting a cross from Kevin De Bruyne into the net from close range. Video review showed Foden was just onside when he applied the finish.

Djokovic withdraws from ATP Cup



Novak Djokovic withdrew from the ATP Cup in Australia ahead of the first Grand Slam tournament of the season, organizers said Wednesday. No reason was given, but the top-ranked Serb has declined to comment on his vaccination status in recent months and Australia’s strict regulations require all players, officials and fans to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. ATP Cup organizers disclosed Djokovic’s withdrawal in a roster update that included France replacing Austria in the 16-country event. Dusan Lajovic will replace Djokovic for Serbia. Fifth-ranked Andrey Rublev of Russia also pulled out, as did teammates Aslan Karatsev and Evgeny Donskoy. The ATP Cup begins Saturday in Sydney. The Australian Open men’s entry list announced in early December had the 34-year-old Djokovic at No. 1 in what was seen as a further indication that he’ll be playing at Melbourne Park beginning Jan. 17 despite Australia’s tight regulations. The nine-time Australian Open champion is tied with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the men’s record of 20 Grand Slam singles titles. —News services



Freshman tight end Brock Bowers, a second-team All-American, leads Georgia in receiving yards and TDs. JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

## Target rich at tight end

Position may seize spotlight in Friday’s semifinal games

By Ralph D. Russo  
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Too big to be covered by the fast guys and too fast to be covered by the big guys. Great pass catching tight ends have always been a part of football, but the position and players who play it have evolved to where they’re often the most difficult matchup on the field. The NFL is in the midst of tight end boom, with players such as Travis Kelce, Mark Andrews, Zach Ertz and Rob Gronkowski frequently taking over games. College teams haven’t quite unlocked the full potential of the position as effectively as the pros, but Friday’s College Football Playoff with No. 1 Alabama facing No. 4 Cincinnati in the Cotton Bowl and No. 2 Michigan playing No. 3 Georgia in the Orange Bowl will put players with potential to be part of the next wave of dominate tight ends on display. “The bottom line is the size and speed combination that people put out at those tight end positions where they can play as a wide receiver or get in the box and be physical, yeah, that makes life tough,” Cincinnati defensive coordinator Mike Tressel said. Michigan and Georgia have combined this season to play 46% of their offensive snaps with multiple tight ends on the field, according to data tracked by Sports Info Solutions. The Bulldogs run 48% of their offense from two or three tight end

sets, and in a season where injuries took a toll on their wide receivers, freshman tight end Brock Bowers emerged as their leading receiver and a second-team All-American. “Typically, nowadays, the tight ends that you recruit, four- and five-star type tight ends, are big receivers with great ball skills,” ESPN analyst and former NFL QB Todd Blackledge said. The 6-foot-4, 230-pound Bowers fits that mold. He has 47 catches for 791 yards (third in the nation among tight ends) and 11 touchdowns (second among tight ends). The Northern California native caught the Georgia coaching staff’s attention even before he officially signed by sending them videos of himself running hills during the pandemic shutdowns in 2020. “We knew he had the run-after-catch ability,” Georgia offensive coordinator Todd Monken said. “They used him in the backfield out of high school, but he’s got a little more range than we thought and he’s continued to develop as a route runner.” Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh fondly tells the story of his college coach, the late Bo Schembechler, being so pleased to hear that as three- and four-receiver sets were becoming more prevalent in the early 2000s, tight ends still played a prominent role in Harbaugh’s attack. The Wolverines have had two or three tight ends on the field for 43% of their snaps this year. Offensive coordinator Josh Gattis’ version of the spread is run-heavy. Michigan’s tight ends are blockers first and foremost, but far from exclusively. Erick All is second on the team with

34 receptions and is responsible for maybe the single most important pass play of Michigan’s season: He went 47 yards for a go-ahead TD in the fourth quarter of a 21-17 victory at Penn State in November. “Coach Gattis has done a great job with getting us all involved with so many ways to attack defenses,” Michigan’s Luke Schoonmaker said. Alabama and Cincinnati haven’t been quite so tight end dependent, combining to run 31% of their offensive plays with two or three, but they seem to be trending toward bigger roles for the tight ends in the Cotton Bowl. Cincinnati’s Josh Whyle came into the season billed as the school’s next big-time tight end prospect following Kelce and Brent Celek, but he had just seven catches in the first six games. “We remained who we were. I remained who I was. I just said throughout the season that I just try to be in the right spots at the right times and I know (QB Desmond Ridder) will find me eventually,” Whyle said. Whyle had 18 catches and five TDs in the final seven games. Whyle and the 6-5, 250-pound Leonard Taylor have combined for 10 TD catches. Considering the problems Alabama had dealing with Bowers in the SEC championship game (10 catches for 139 yards), Whyle and Taylor could see an uptick in targets Friday. Alabama could also turn to its tight ends more against Cincinnati to make up for the loss of second-leading receiver John Metchie, who’s out with a knee injury. Cameron Latu is a 6-5, 250-pound converted defensive end who has six TDs among his 20 catches for 299 yards.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL


## Ground game lifts Gophers to victory

Associated Press


Ky Thomas ran for 144 yards and a touchdown, Mar’Kiese Irving added 129 yards rushing and Minnesota shut down West Virginia on defense to win the Guaranteed Rate Bowl 18-6 on Tuesday night in Phoenix. Thomas and Irving became the Gophers’ 1-2 punch after Mohamed Ibrahim and Trey Potts sustained season-ending injuries earlier this season. The two running backs carried most of the load offensively against West Virginia (6-7), accounting for 273 of Minnesota’s 358 total yards. The Gophers (9-4) overwhelmed the Mountaineers defensively, holding them to 206 total yards to win their fifth straight bowl game, third under coach P.J. Fleck. It wasn’t much of a surprise. Minnesota finished fourth nationally in total defense, allowing 284.8 yards per game, and was ninth against the pass and run.

**Bennett to start for Georgia:** If there was any doubt left about who will be starting at quarterback for No. 3 Georgia against No. 2 Michigan in the College Football Playoff, Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart put an end to it Wednesday. “Stetson (Bennett) is our starting QB,” Smart said. Smart added that whether backup JT Daniels plays Friday in the Orange Bowl will be determined by the game situation and Daniels’ health. Daniels began the season as the starter but an injury opened the door for Bennett. As for his current health, Daniels didn’t travel with the team to Miami and arrived a day later. Smart said the Bulldogs dealt with some COVID-19 issues, but gave no specifics. Assistants back with Bama: Alabama offensive coordinator Bill O’Brien rejoined the team Tuesday after isolating for a period of time following a positive COVID-19 test. Offensive line coach Doug Marrone also was back with the team after having tested positive. Both coaches had attended every staff meeting virtually. “Coach (Nick) Saban made everything normal,” said O’Brien, the former Penn State and Texans head coach. O’Brien and Marrone took advantage of the SEC’s recently adjusted COVID-19 protocols, which fell in line with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention announcement Monday of reduced isolation times from 10 days to five days.


Today’s bowl games



**DUKE’S MAYO BOWL**  
**UNC (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6)**  
11:30 a.m., ESPN



**MUSIC CITY BOWL**  
**Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5)**  
3 p.m., ESPN



**PEACH BOWL**  
**No. 12 Pittsburgh (11-2) vs. No. 10 Michigan St (10-2)** 7 p.m., ESPN

**KEY MATCHUP**  
**Tennessee’s up-tempo offense vs. Purdue’s defense:** The Volunteers won’t only score fast, they have outscored opponents 169-44 in the first quarter this season. Purdue ranks 19th nationally allowing 20.5 points a game. The Boilermakers also have 14 takeaways over the last seven games after having only two combined through the first five games.

**KEY MATCHUP**  
**Pitt WR Jordan Addison vs. Michigan State secondary:** The Panthers won’t have QB Kenny Pickett, who finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting before opting out of the bowl game, but they have Addison, who won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation’s top receiver. Meanwhile, the Spartans rank last in the nation in pass defense, allowing 337.7 yards per game through the air.

**KEY MATCHUP**  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
**Arizona State (8-4) vs. Wisconsin (8-4)**  
10:30 p.m., ESPN

**KEY MATCHUP**  
**Wisconsin RB Braelon Allen vs. Arizona State LB Kyle Soelle:** It took a month for the freshman Allen to get significant playing time before ripping off seven consecutive 100-yard games, totaling 1,013 yards and 11 TDs in that span to make his case for being the next great Badgers tailback. Soelle, who leads the Sun Devils with 82 tackles, will aim to contain Allen. — Associated Press



Hartford Courant

# FLAVOR

LIVING



Crispy shrimp cakes with chile-lime mayo. For an untraditional binder, crushed-up rice cakes are mixed in with the shrimp for a crisp result.  
DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Crispy shrimp cakes with chile-lime mayo**

**Total time:** 45 minutes  
**Makes:** 3 to 4 servings  
3 to 5 large original or lightly salted rice cakes, or 6 to 10 thin cakes (see note)  
1 pound shelled large raw shrimp (20 to 24), coarsely chopped  
¼ cup minced shallot (or use onion or scallion)  
6 tablespoons chopped cilantro  
6 tablespoons chopped basil leaves, more for serving  
3 tablespoons minced jalapeño or red chile pepper  
2 ½ teaspoons fish sauce  
Fine sea salt and freshly ground black pepper  
½ cup mayonnaise  
1 lime  
Safflower, peanut or grapeseed oil, for frying

**1. In the bowl** of the food processor (or you can use a blender), add the rice cakes and pulse until you get 1 ¼ cups rice cake crumbs. Return ¼ cup crumbs to the food processor, reserving the remaining 1 cup for coating the cakes.

**2. Add** shrimp, shallot, 4 tablespoons each of cilantro and basil, and 2 tablespoons jalapeño to crumbs. Add 2 teaspoons fish sauce and a pinch each salt and pepper. Pulse until the mixture forms a coarse, chunky paste. (Be careful not to overprocess; if using a blender, scrape down the sides frequently.) Transfer to a bowl, cover and refrigerate while you make the sauce (at least 15 minutes and up to 24 hours).

**3. In small bowl**, whisk together mayonnaise, remaining cilantro, basil, jalapeño and fish sauce. Zest lime into bowl, then cut naked lime into wedges and squeeze in some juice. Salt to taste. Reserve extra lime wedges for serving.

**4. Spread** remaining 1 cup rice cake crumbs out onto plate or sheet pan. With wet hands to keep shrimp paste from sticking, form 2 tablespoons of shrimp mixture into ½-inch-thick patty and put it on top of crumbs. Repeat with remaining shrimp mixture, re-wetting hands as needed. Turn patties over in crumbs to coat both sides.

**5. Heat** oil in a large skillet over medium-high. Fry patties in batches until golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Serve shrimp cakes topped with more basil leaves, with chile-lime sauce for dunking and lime wedges on the side for squeezing.

**Note:** Original, whole-grain or brown rice cakes (either the thick or thin kind) all work well. If you can't find rice cakes, use 1 ¼ cups panko or cracker crumbs. The cakes won't be as crisp, but they'll still taste great.

# Lightest, crispiest SHRIMP CAKES

**By Melissa Clark**  
The New York Times

Whether bite-size Thai shrimp patties spiked with fish sauce, Vietnamese shrimp paste packed onto sugar cane or Southern American shrimp burgers shot through with mayonnaise, savory shrimp cakes are a tasty staple in coastal regions all over the world.

Unsurprisingly, their flavors vary depending on where they're made. You'll find them spiced with the likes of white pepper in China, chiles in Latin America or Old Bay seasoning in South Carolina.

Another point of difference

is the binder — or lack thereof. Some traditional recipes skip it, mashing and pounding the shrimp until they stick together on their own. This results in a firm, bouncy texture after cooking, with a pleasing chew. Other recipes lace some combination of eggs, flour, cornstarch, bread or cracker crumbs, or rice into the shrimp batter, making for airier, crumblier cakes that are easier to brown when cooked at high heat (usually deep-fried, pan-fried or grilled).

In my somewhat untraditional rendition, I've bound the batter with something else entirely: crumbs pulverized from puffed, crunchy rice cakes.

Although this may not seem intuitive, it does make sense, given that both rice and crackers are common binders. Rice cakes just combine the two. You get the mild flavor and gluten-free qualities of the rice along with the crispness of crackers.

Make sure to use the pebbly kind of rice cakes here (either thick or thin), the ones that vaguely resemble popcorn or plastic foam. While you could crush up smooth, waferlike rice crackers for this, the shrimp cakes won't be quite as airy. The beauty of the rice cakes is how all that air trapped in the puffed rice gives the shrimp cakes a lighter, more ethereal texture.

To make the crumbs, grind

the rice cakes in a food processor or blender. Then the shrimp and aromatics (I use a bracing mix of garlic, basil, cilantro and chiles) can be whirled together in the same container, no need to wash it first.

Chilling the batter for at least an hour (or overnight) makes it easier to form into cakes. And the fried cakes freeze reasonably well, although they won't be as crisp after thawing. Running them under the broiler helps restore them.

I like to serve these with an herby, chile-flecked mayonnaise that's sort of like a tartar sauce, but spicier. Then I nibble them hot from the pan and dream of the beach.

# Spiced paste transforms cauliflower

**By Christopher Kimball**  
For Associated Press

We rarely appreciate cauliflower for what it is. We grill slabs of it and pretend it's steak. We mash it like potatoes. We even make it into pizza crusts.

But cooks around the world, from Greece to Israel to China, have shown us how good it can be. That is, when we stop fussing so much with it.

Roasting it whole with a spiced paste slathered all over creates a flavorful browned exterior, with crispy edges that offer textural contrast to the tender interior. And it couldn't be easier.

For this recipe from our book, "COOKish," which limits recipes to just six ingredients without sacrificing flavor, we took flavor inspiration from

gobi Manchurian, an Indo-Chinese dish of deep-fried and seasoned cauliflower. It is widely popular partly for its crisp-saucy quality, but also for its addictive savory-sweet spiciness.

A spiced paste made from a few big-flavor pantry ingredients adds plenty of complexity, including the Indian spice blend garam masala, Chinese chili-garlic sauce and — don't judge — ketchup. The tomato in the ketchup concentrates in the oven for a savory umami boost, and its sugars encourage flavorful browning.

Sliced into wedges and sprinkled with sliced scallions for an allium bite, this cauliflower shows off all the things it can be: naturally sweet and savory, while at once meaty and light.



A spiced paste made from a few pantry ingredients, including the Indian spice blend garam masala, Chinese chili-garlic sauce and ketchup, adds plenty of complexity to the whole cauliflower.  
MILK STREET

**Chili-garlic roasted whole cauliflower**

**Total time:** 1 hour 10 minutes (10 minutes active)  
**Makes:** 4 servings  
2-pound head cauliflower, trimmed  
¼ cup neutral oil  
2 tablespoons chili-garlic sauce  
2 tablespoons ketchup  
1 tablespoon garam masala  
Kosher salt and ground black pepper  
2 scallions, thinly sliced

**Heat** the oven to 425 degrees. Place the cauliflower on a rimmed baking sheet. Mix the oil, chili-garlic sauce, ketchup, garam masala and 2 teaspoons each salt and pepper. Brush half the mixture onto the cauliflower, then roast until deeply browned and a skewer inserted into the center meets just a little resistance, 40 to 55 minutes. Brush on the remaining mixture and roast for another 10 minutes. Cut into wedges and sprinkle with scallions.



Hartford Courant

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Mark Bittman's take on Ma Po, a Sichuan dish featuring tofu in a spicy sauce, is made with ground chicken, green beans and Sichuan peppercorns for heat. **GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

# Ma Po reinvented with chicken and green beans

**By Gretchen McKay**  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Perhaps no Sichuan dish is as famous as rich, spicy-hot Ma Po, made with tofu and minced ground pork. Loved for its aromatic heat, it's perfect for those brisk winter days where the cold seeps into your bones and even your coziest sweater can't warm you up.

The spice that gives Ma Po its kick isn't the expected chili pepper but Sichuan peppercorn.

Fragrant, with a hint of citrus, the reddish-pink berries of the prickly ash tree numb the lips upon impact.

In this recipe from Mark Bittman, ground chicken and green beans trade places with the traditional pork and tofu, and the silky sauce is made not with fermented bean paste and hot chilies but from the pantry staples of ketchup, cider vinegar and cornstarch. He also adds ground Sichuan peppercorn instead of the whole petite berries. You can find either at most

Asian markets. What the dish lacks in authenticity, he writes in “Dinner for Everyone,” “is more than compensated by its familiar flavor and convenience.”

I used lettuce cups, but you could serve it with rice or noodles for a more substantial bite. Or, just spoon it into a bowl right out of the pan. Also on the nontraditional side: I added chopped pistachio for crunch and lots of fresh chopped cilantro.

# Almost Ma Po chicken

**Makes:** 6 servings  
3 tablespoons good vegetable oil (I used sesame)  
1½ pounds ground chicken  
Salt and pepper  
115-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed  
2 tablespoons ketchup  
2 tablespoons cider vinegar  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
1 teaspoon dark sesame oil  
1 teaspoon red chili flakes, or to taste  
1 teaspoon ground Sichuan peppercorn  
1 pound green beans, trimmed  
Butterhead, green leaf or romaine lettuce, washed, dried and separated into leaves  
Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish  
Chopped pistachios, for garnish

**1. Heat** oil in a large skillet on medium-high. Add chicken, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, until it's browned and crisp in places, 5-10 minutes.

**2. While chicken cooks,** mash black beans with a fork in a small bowl. Add ketchup, vinegar, cornstarch, sesame oil, chili flakes and Sichuan peppercorn. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Stir and mash until a thick paste forms.

**3. Add** the mixture to the browned chicken, stirring until coated and fragrant, 1-2 minutes. Add ½ cup water and green beans and stir. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat so the mixture bubbles steadily and cover.

**4. Cook,** stirring once or twice, until the sauce thickens and the beans are as tender as you like, 5-10 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings.

**5. To serve,** spoon chicken mixture into lettuce leaves. Top with chopped cilantro and chopped pistachio.

— Adapted from “Dinner for Everyone” by Mark Bittman (Clarkson Potter, \$40)



You can make this seemingly fancy dessert up to two days ahead of time.  
**ELLE SIMONE/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN**

With this recipe, everyone  
gets their own mini cake

America's Test Kitchen

Flourless chocolate cakes are rich, fudgy and intensely chocolaty. Instead of using flour or leaveners for structure, like most other cakes do, these special cakes

rely on a combination of eggs and cornstarch. As the cakes bake, the eggs puff up in the oven, giving them lift. The cornstarch creates a kind of glue to keep the texture smooth. Bonus: These cakes are naturally gluten-free.

## Individual flourless chocolate cakes

**Makes:** 6 individual cakes

Vegetable oil spray

1 cup (6 ounces) chocolate chips

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 4 pieces

½ cup (3 ½ ounces) sugar

1½ teaspoons cornstarch

3 large eggs

¼ cup (2 ounces) water

1½ teaspoons vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon salt

**1. Adjust** oven rack to the middle position and heat oven to 275 degrees. Spray the inside bottoms and sides of six 4-ounce ramekins with vegetable oil spray. Place ramekins on a rimmed baking sheet.

**2. In a large microwave-safe bowl,** combine chocolate chips and butter. Heat in the microwave at 50% power for 2 minutes. Stir mixture with a rubber spatula to combine. Return to the microwave and heat at 50% power until melted, about 2 minutes.

**3. Use** the rubber spatula to stir until well combined and shiny, about 30 seconds. Let chocolate mixture cool for 5 minutes.

**4. In a medium bowl**, whisk sugar and cornstarch until combined. Add eggs, water, vanilla and salt; whisk until combined.

**5. Add** sugar mixture to cooled chocolate mixture and whisk until smooth. Transfer batter to a large liquid measuring cup. Pour batter evenly into greased ramekins. (Ramekins will be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full.)

**6. Bake** cakes until edges are set, but centers still look wet, 20 to 24 minutes. Gently shake the baking sheet. If the centers of the cakes look very liquidy and jiggle a lot, bake the cakes for 1 to 2 additional minutes. When the centers of the cakes jiggle slightly, remove the baking sheet from the oven. Place the baking sheet on a cooling rack and let cakes cool on baking sheet for 30 minutes.

**7. Cover** each ramekin with plastic wrap and use a fork to poke small holes in top of plastic. Refrigerate until cakes are cold and firm, at least 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. (Cakes can be refrigerated for up to two days.)

**8. Remove** cakes from the refrigerator and let them sit at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving. Top with whipped cream or berries, or dust with confectioners' sugar, if desired. Serve.

# Seeing 2021 out with a pop, a pour and a fizz

8 sparkling wines, Champagnes to try with the new year

By Eric Asimov  
The New York Times

Bubbles go with year's end as surely as Thanksgiving and turkey, and Valentine's Day and chocolates. It's a tradition and an expectation. But why? Is it the impression of extravagance that comes with a fine bottle of Champagne? The hope and joy in the pop of a cork? The rush of sparkle and froth that connotes celebration?

All of the above, along with a lot of successful marketing. But the pairing would not stick if people didn't love it. I know I do. Rising prices may make many reluctant to pop a Champagne cork this year, but it doesn't mean people will drink less sparkling wine.

Prosecco, cava, crémants, spumantes, frizzantes, sekts and pétillant naturels are just some of the sparklers made outside Champagne. Add in the wines produced using the same grapes and methods as Champagne — from the United States, Italy, England, South America, Australia and more — and consumers have plenty of options if, as some have predicted, a Champagne shortage is looming.

I have my doubts about that, just as I'm never surprised when oil companies claim summer shortages require them to raise gasoline prices just as vacationers hit the road. Not that the same supply-chain difficulties impeding the availability of other consumer goods has not affected wine in general. It has, but skepticism is not unwarranted.

After a recent shopping spree for sparkling wines in New York City retail stores, I found some bottles I highly recommend.



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

I could have selected dozens of other great bottles as well. I tried not to repeat previous end-of-the-year suggestions, although a few of these bottles are old favorites, and among the Champagnes, I stuck with nonvintage and entry-level bottles.

Here are the bottles, from least to most expensive within each category.

### Sparkling wines

**Le Vigne di Alice Veneto Tajad Frizzante NV, \$19:** Cinzia Canzian makes this wine as an homage to her grandmother, who, in the days before the glera grape came to dominate prosecco production, used to blend glera with two other local varieties, boschera (better known by its synonym verdicchio) and verdiso. The wine is dry and flowery, lively and charming. The second, bubble-inducing fermentation occurs in big tanks, as with most proseccos, but Tajad is far better than any standard-issue bottle.

**Raventós i Blanc Conca del Riu Anoia de Nit 2018, \$22:**

Good cava is one of the best deals in sparkling wine. The problem is that a lot more bad cava is made than good. But I've been collecting the names of producers to seek out, including Recaredo, Gramona, AT Roca, Mestres, Bohigas, Loxarel, Castellroig, Parés Baltà and Raventós i Blanc, which produces de Nit, a bottle I keep returning to because it's excellent and a great value. Like many of these I've listed, Raventós i Blanc no longer uses the term "cava" in order to avoid its poor connotations. Instead, it uses Conca del Riu Anoia, after a small area in the Penedès, where it has a biodynamically farmed estate. This rosado is made of the three traditional cava grapes, parellada, xarello and macabeu, along with monastrell, or mourvèdre, which accounts for the wine's pale pink color. It's dry, nuanced, tangy and delicious.

**Domaine Dupasquier Savoie Perles d'Aimavigne Blanc de Blancs NV, \$23:** I've found so much to love about wines from

the Savoie region in eastern France. The latest is this sparkling wine, made largely of jacquère and chardonnay, with a little altesse as well. It's bone-dry and lacy-fine, with lightly creamy flavors. The brother-sister team of David and Véronique Dupasquier is the fifth generation of the family to oversee this domaine, which also makes terrific still wines. Fortuitously, as Wink Lorch points out in her excellent book "Wines of the French Alps," Aima-vigne, the town where the estate is based, means "love the vine."

**Ferrari Trento Brut Metodo Classico NV, \$26:** This wine is made entirely of chardonnay, one of the three main grapes of Champagne, and it's made using the same method as Champagne, in which a second fermentation is induced in the bottle to produce the bubbles. So, isn't it just a knockoff of Champagne? In a vague sense, yes, but one taste of it and you can tell it's quite different. It's made in the Trentino-Alto Adige region of Italy, and

it feels entirely Italian in spirit, stylish and graceful with a sheer, elegant texture and creamy, herbal flavors. It's both delicious and an excellent value.

### Champagnes

**A.R. Lenoble Champagne Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Chouilly Brut Mag 14, \$54:** Lenoble is an unusual, experimental house run by the brother-sister team of Antoine and Anne Malasagne. For the last decade, they have been storing reserve wines in magnum bottles, believing that it improves the freshness of the older wines. The label on this blanc de blancs, Mag 14, indicates that the base wines were from the 2014 vintage, supplemented by the wines in magnum. The result is a creamy, vivacious, fine-textured blanc de blancs that is stony and resonant.

**Huré Frères Champagne Brut Invitation NV, \$56:** I first tried Huré a few years ago at Le Coucou in New York and have been intrigued ever since by these rich, energetic Cham-

pagnes. Invitation is the entry-level brut, 40% pinot meunier, 40% pinot noir and 20% chardonnay. It is savory, dry and refreshing, with underlying suggestions of red fruit flavors.

**Louis Roederer Champagne Brut Collection 242, \$65:** Champagne house Louis Roederer recently changed its entry-level, nonvintage bottle. What used to be called Brut Premier is now Collection 242, with the number appended indicating the number of blends it has produced since the house was founded in 1776. Not only did Roederer change the name, it altered its method for making the wine. In 2012, it established what it calls a perpetual reserve, a little like a sherry solera in which new wine is added to the reserve each year, theoretically growing in complexity over time. To make the Champagne, wine from the perpetual reserve, stored in steel vats, is blended with wine from a base vintage, in this case 2017, along with other reserve wines stored in oak. The result is a lovely, lacy Champagne of great freshness, energy and finesse. It's a little more expensive than Brut Premier, but it is superb.

**Ruppert-Leroy Champagne 11, 12, 13 ... Brut Nature NV \$67:** Ruppert-Leroy is a tiny husband-and-wife producer of natural Champagnes, also in the Côte des Bar. They farm biodynamically and add nothing to the wine, not even sulfur dioxide, the widely used preservative and antioxidant. Like the Roederer, this Champagne is made using a solera system. It was started in 2011 and wine has been added each year since; hence the name 11, 12, 13 .... This bottle, half pinot noir, half chardonnay, is lean, pure, focused and refreshing, with savory saline, citrus and herbal flavors.



Fresh and dried cranberries dot this delicious cornbread. ERICA ALLEN/EATINGWELL

# Sweeten your cornbread

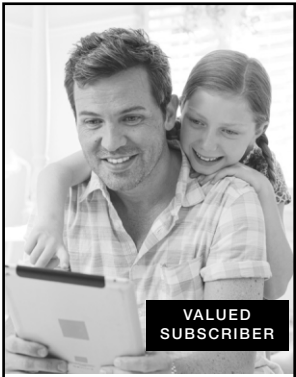
By Maria Speck | EatingWell

Cornbread gets a makeover with the addition of fresh and dried cranberries. If you like your cornbread on the sweeter side, increase the recipe's honey to ½ cup.

### Cranberry cornbread

**Makes:** 10 servings  
**Active time:** 15 minutes  
**Total time:** 45 minutes  
2 cups fine whole-grain cornmeal  
¾ cup whole-wheat pastry flour or white whole-wheat flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
¼ teaspoon salt  
2 large eggs  
1 ½ cups buttermilk  
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil  
⅓ cup honey  
1 tablespoon finely grated orange zest  
¾ cup fresh cranberries, rinsed and patted dry, or frozen (not thawed)  
⅓ cup dried cranberries  
**1. Preheat** oven to 400 degrees. Coat a 10-inch cast-iron skillet (or 9-inch metal cake pan) with cooking spray.  
**2. Set aside** 2 tablespoons cornmeal in a small bowl. Whisk the remaining cornmeal, whole-wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl.  
**3. Lightly whisk** eggs in a medium bowl, then whisk in buttermilk, oil, honey and

orange zest until smooth. Make a well in the center of the dry mixture. Pour in the wet ingredients and stir with a rubber spatula until just combined. Do not overmix; the batter should look lumpy.  
**4. Toss** fresh and dried cranberries with the reserved cornmeal. (This will prevent the fruit from sinking to the bottom during baking.) Gently fold the cranberries and cornmeal into the batter. Scrape the batter into the prepared skillet (or pan).  
**5. Bake** the cornbread until the edges turn golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with a few moist crumbs, 25 to 30 minutes. Let stand for 15 minutes before cutting into wedges. Serve warm.  
**Notes:** White whole-wheat flour is made from hard white wheat berries, which makes it lighter in color and flavor than regular whole-wheat flour, but with the same nutritional properties. For the best flavor, store it airtight in the freezer. Whole-grain cornmeal (with the nutritious germ and fiber-rich bran left intact) is increasingly available in well-stocked supermarkets. Look for "whole grain" on the label. For this recipe, use "fine" whole-grain cornmeal.



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A pan of hearty lasagna Bolognese from Anthony Bourdain’s “Appetites: A Cookbook.” KIRK MCKOY/LOS ANGELES TIMES

# A COMPLETE MEAL IN ITSELF

A pan of lasagna will please everyone at your dinner table

By Julie Giuffrida  
Los Angeles Times

Lasagna is one of those dishes best eaten a day or more after it is made, so the flavors have a chance to marry and the components can bond more firmly. That can be quite helpful at this time of year, when we are perhaps a bit burned out from all of that holiday cooking.

A complete meal in itself, no sides are necessary with lasagna, though a green salad can add a welcome crunch factor. Lasagna is easily adaptable for vegetarians and can be made with gluten-free lasagna noodles for those who do not eat wheat. Want to cut down on dishes, too? No-boil lasagna noodles reduce preparation time and pot washing.

Classic lasagna Bolognese uses a ragu — slow-cooked meat sauce — rather than ground beef simmered in marinara, and a bechamel in place of the layers of ricotta and mozzarella that we are accustomed to here in America. Although you can’t taste it, Anthony Bourdain’s ragu includes chicken liver for even more richness and depth of flavor. His lasagna Bolognese also uses no-boil lasagna noodles for easier assembly.

Lorenza Munoz makes a vegetarian Mexican lasagna using popular Mexican ingredients such as rajas — strips of poblano chile sauteed with onions — in place of the meat and her own blend of sour cream and cotija cheese to make “Mexican ricotta.”

Packed with fresh spinach, portobello mushrooms, artichokes and gooey mozzarella, Cafe Roka’s artichoke and portobello mushroom lasagna is all about a hearty texture.

Most people wouldn’t guess it is vegetarian.

Spend a few hours making it — or any of these delicious lasagna recipes — and you’ll have many meals’ worth of heat-and-eat dinners on hand.



GLENN KOENIG/LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Cafe Roka’s artichoke and portobello mushroom lasagna

**Time:** 2 hours  
**Makes:** 10 to 12 servings  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 large onion, medium dice  
1 pound portobello mushrooms, medium dice  
1 pound coarsely chopped spinach  
½ cup dry white wine  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 (14-ounce) can artichokes (packed in water), drained and coarsely chopped  
Salt and pepper  
¼ cup (½ stick) butter  
¼ cup flour  
4 ½ cups milk  
1 ½ cups grated Parmesan cheese  
1 (14-ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained  
Ground nutmeg  
1 (9-ounce) box oven-ready lasagna sheets (no-boil style)  
1 pound grated whole milk mozzarella  
**1. Bring** a large pot of water to boil to blanch the spinach.  
**2. Meanwhile,** heat a large skillet over medium-high heat until hot, then add the olive oil and the onion. Cook the onion, stirring frequently, until the onion starts to soften, 3 to 5 minutes. Increase the heat to high, stir in the mushrooms and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until any of the liquid released from the mushrooms has

evaporated, 8 to 10 minutes.  
**3. While the mushrooms are cooking, blanch the spinach:** Add the spinach, in batches, to the boiling water and cook until the spinach softens and turns a bright green, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Transfer the spinach in a large bowl of ice water to stop the cooking. Repeat until all the spinach is blanched. Drain the spinach and wrap it in a large kitchen towel, squeezing the towel to drain the spinach of any excess moisture.  
**4. When the liquid** from the mushrooms has evaporated, add the white wine, stirring to scrape any flavoring from the bottom of the pan. Add the garlic and artichokes, stirring until completely combined. Taste the mixture, and add ¾ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper, or season as desired. Stir in the spinach, then taste and season again if needed. Remove from heat and set aside.  
**5. Make the tomato-bechamel sauce:** In a medium, heavy-bottom saucepan, melt butter over medium-high heat. When butter is foamy, whisk in flour. Slowly whisk in the milk and cook over medium heat, whisking frequently, until the mixture begins to thicken and take on a sauce-like consistency, 10 to 12 minutes. Slowly stir in the Parmesan cheese, and when the cheese is melted, stir in the tomatoes. Taste the sauce, adding ¾ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon

pepper, along with a pinch of nutmeg, or season as desired.  
**6. Heat** the oven to 350 degrees and assemble the lasagna: On the bottom of a 13-by 9-inch baking dish, ladle about 1 cup of the tomato-bechamel sauce. Cover the sauce with a single layer of lasagna noodles. Sprinkle ¼ of the vegetable mixture over the noodles, then ladle over another cup of the sauce. Top the sauce with ¼ of the grated mozzarella. Repeat with the noodles, vegetables, sauce and mozzarella until you have 4 layers. (If you have more than one cup of sauce left when assembling the fourth layer, go ahead and pour all the remaining sauce with that layer before sprinkling over the last of the mozzarella cheese.) The dish can be assembled up to this point, covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated up to a day before baking; remove the plastic wrap and leave the lasagna out at room temperature while heating the oven before continuing with the next step.  
**7. Cover** baking dish with foil and place dish on rimmed baking sheet to catch any drippings. Bake the lasagna for 45 minutes. Increase the temperature to 450 degrees, remove the foil from the lasagna and continue baking until the top is lightly browned, 8 to 12 minutes. Remove and cool slightly on a rack for 20 minutes before serving.  
— By Noelle Carter; adapted from Cafe Roka in Bisbee, Arizona

## Anthony Bourdain’s lasagna Bolognese

**Time:** 4 hours  
**Makes:** 12 to 16 servings

**Bechamel sauce**  
6 tablespoons butter  
6 tablespoons flour  
1 quart milk  
Salt and pepper  
Pinch freshly ground nutmeg, optional  
**1. In a medium,** heavy-bottom saucepan, heat the butter over medium heat until it foams and subsides. Whisk in the flour and stir it well using a wooden spoon, incorporating it into the butter until a dry paste forms (a roux). Reduce the heat and continue to cook and stir, taking care not to let the mixture brown.  
**2. Meanwhile,** in a large saucepan, bring the milk to a simmer, then gradually whisk it into the pan with the roux, continuing to whisk until the mixture is smooth. Season with ½ teaspoon salt and a pinch of pepper, or to taste, along with the nutmeg, if using. Continue to cook over medium-low heat, stirring regularly, until the sauce is thick enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon, about 10 minutes. This makes about 4 cups bechamel.

**Lasagna Bolognese**  
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 large white or yellow onion, finely chopped  
2 large or 3 medium carrots, finely chopped  
3 ribs celery, finely chopped  
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
½ teaspoon fresh thyme leaves  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
½ pound chicken livers, trimmed of connective tissue and fat and finely chopped  
¾ pound ground beef chuck  
¾ pound ground veal  
¾ pound ground pork  
¾ cup tomato paste (about 6 ounces)  
1 cup Vermentino, Trebbiano or other Tuscan white wine  
1 ½ cups milk  
2 bay leaves  
About 1 pound dry, flat lasagna noodles  
4 cups bechamel sauce  
¾ cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese  
6 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced  
**1. To make the Bolognese sauce,** in a medium, heavy-bottom pot, heat 2 tablespoons oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion, carrots, celery, garlic and thyme and season with ½ teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper, or to taste. Cook, stirring regularly using a wooden spoon, until the vegetables are tender and have released their juices, 7 to 9 minutes. Stir in the livers and cook over high heat for 2 minutes, then add the beef, veal and pork, stirring and breaking up over high heat. Season with 1 teaspoon salt and several grinds pepper, or to taste. Continue to cook over high heat until the meat is brown, stirring regularly and scraping the bottom of the pan as necessary to keep the meat and vegetables from scorching.

**2. Once the meat is browned,** stir in the tomato paste over medium heat. Cook for about 20 minutes, stirring regularly, to marry the flavors. Add the wine, bring to a boil and cook until the wine is reduced by half, then add the milk and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 1 ½ to 2 hours, stirring occasionally. You may need to add a bit of water (or chicken or veal stock, if you have it) to thin the sauce if it thickens too much.  
**3. Taste** the sauce and season with 1 teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper, or as needed. Remove from heat and stir to release the steam and allow it to cool slightly. Skim the fat off the top with a ladle and discard.

**4. Heat** the oven to 350 degrees.  
**5. Coat** the inside of a 13-inch by 9-inch (or similar size) baking dish with the remaining tablespoon oil. Cover the bottom of the dish with a layer of bechamel. Sprinkle over some grated cheese, then top with a layer of noodles. Top the noodles with a layer of Bolognese sauce, and repeat with the bechamel, grated cheese, noodles and Bolognese until the pan is filled to the top. The top layer should be Bolognese, dotted with bechamel, with thin slices of mozzarella laid across the top.  
**6. Place** the baking dish on a foil-lined sheet pan and bake in the oven until the lasagna is browned on top and beginning to bubble, about 50 minutes. Remove and set aside to cool. If you must serve it the day you’ve made it, set it aside to rest for 15 minutes before slicing. For best results, allow the lasagna to cool completely and refrigerate overnight. The next day, reheat at 350 degrees, covered loosely with foil, until bubbling. Remove from heat and rest 20 minutes before serving.

— Adapted from a recipe in “Appetites: A Cookbook” by Anthony Bourdain

## Mexican lasagna

**Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes  
**Makes:** 8 to 12 servings  
8 poblano chiles  
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
½ onion, cut into rounds  
1 cup corn kernels  
1 chopped garlic clove  
1 cup tomato sauce  
1 cup vegetable broth  
1 (8-ounce) container sour cream  
15 ounces (1 ½ 10-ounce packages) cotija cheese, divided  
9 pieces oven-ready lasagna  
6 ounces quesadilla cheese (½ of a 12-ounce package), shredded  
**1. Prepare the chiles:** Roast the chiles under the broiler or over a stove-top burner until the skin is charred on all sides. Peel the skin and seed the chiles, then cut lengthwise into long strips.  
**2. Heat** the oven to 375 degrees.  
**3. In a large saute pan,** heat 2 tablespoons oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the corn and chile strips, reduce the heat to low and continue to cook until the corn and chiles are warmed through. Remove from heat and set aside.  
**4. In a medium saucepan,** heat the remaining tablespoon of oil over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook until aromatic, about 1



RICARDO DEARATANHA/LOS ANGELES TIMES

minute. Add the tomato sauce and vegetable broth and heat until hot. Remove from heat and set aside.  
**5. In a food processor,** combine the sour cream with ¾ of the cotija cheese and blend until creamy but lumpy. (This can also be done by hand in a large bowl using the back of a spoon.)  
**6. Line** base of 13-by-9-inch baking or casserole dish with 3 lasagna noodles. Add ½ of corn-chile mixture, distributing evenly over the noodles. Dollop ½ of the sour cream-cotija mixture over the corn and chiles. Place 3 more noodles in the

pan, and repeat with the remaining corn-chile mixture and sour cream-cotija mix.  
**7. Place** the 3 remaining noodles in the pan. Sprinkle the shredded quesadilla cheese and remaining cotija cheese over the noodles. Using a spoon, drizzle the thinned tomato sauce evenly over the noodles in the dish.  
**8. Cover** the dish with foil and bake the lasagna for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and continue to bake until the cheese is melted and golden, an additional 10 to 15 minutes.  
— By Lorenza Munoz